Daily Report

Latin America

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Venezuela

Madrid EFE reports that President Carlos Andres Perez is "urgently preparing the second reorganization of the government in less than two weeks" following the resignation of Justice Minister Arminda Quintana and Interior Affairs Minister Carmelo Lauria. According to EFE, Quintana resigned to "protest the fact that no attention has been paid to her proposals to reform the judicial branch." Lauria announced his resignation on 5 March, a few hours after President Perez announced "important measures for political, economic, and social change." EFE also reports that Congress President Pedro Paris has proposed the "immediate" creation of the post of prime minister as part of the package of reform measures being implemented by the government "to resolve the serious crisis the country is experiencing." President Perez offered to create the post as one of his campaign promises and, according to EFE, "there has been a nationwide call for this action in the wake of the 4 February abortive coup."

El Salvador

In reporting by San Salvador TV, the FMLN paints a "bleak picture of the first month of the cease-fire." Negative elements include the restructuring of the National Guard and Treasury Police. FMLN Commander Jorge Shafik Handal suggests that conversion to a border police "could generate new conflicts," and that "this goes against the spirit of the peace and reconciliation process." He also questioned reporting on alleged land takeovers, and accused the private sector of "promoting destabilization." Mexico City NOTIMEX covers a news conference by FMLN Commander Roberto Rojas in which he affirmed that "Salvadoran guerrillas would continue to arm themselves to ensure the peace process," and could not accept a military disadvantage until "an irreversible peace" was attained.

Nicaragua

Mexico City NOTIMEX reports that an irregular force comprising members of the recontra and recompa forces formed a single bloc and, on 5 March, occupied the northern city of Ocotal in an effort to force the Chamorro administration to "comply with the promises made to them." A government commission reached initial agreements on land tenure, disarmament, and social benefits. BARRICADA reports that talks will continue on 8 March, and although this is an armed protest, there has as yet been no violence.

Haiti

In a speech by Provisional President Nerette carried by Port-au-Prince Radio and TV, the president challenged the right of Parliament to negotiate with the OAS, warning of the danger of following "the perilous path of unconstitutionality." Referring to the possibility of his resignation, he said, "I would like to do so...if I would not be abandoning my country."

Chile

Hamburg DPA reports that German ambassador in Santiago, Wiegand Pabsch, presented to the Foreign Ministry the FRG's demand that Erich Honecker's stay in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow be terminated. Ambassador Pabsch told Santiago radio that his government is "slightly annoyed" about the protection given to Honecker, but relations between the FRG and Chile continue to be "very good." According to Santiago radio, Foreign Minister Silva Cimma lodged a "strong complaint" with the Bonn Government because Germany "previously disclosed" its proposal on Honecker to the press. Silva said, "This is not the way that we understand international relations are to be conducted."

Cuba

GRANMA Article Views Torricelli Embargo Bill

FL0703145192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Article from 7 Mar GRANMA by Nicanor Leon Cotayo: "The Torricelli Bill: The New Political Mentality That Prevails in U.S. Government Circles"]

[Text] A bill aimed at intensifying even more the economic embargo and the other aggressive campaigns against Cuba recently began to circulate in the U.S. Congress. According to reports, the plan is called "Act for Cuban Democracy, 1992" and was submitted to the House of Representatives by Democratic Congressmen Robert Torricelli of New Jersey and Robert Graham of Florida, but it is more identified with the former. Along with them, as one of the most conspicuous supporters of this proposal, is a figure who has become the great godfather to part of the Cuban community residing in Miami: Jorge Mas Canosa.

In the text that was submitted, the intention of making the policy to be followed by Washington against Cuba at the present stage into a double set of pincers is obvious. This intention is to intensify to a maximum basic aspects of the economic, trade, and financial embargo while using elements of the experience gained by the White House in its diversionist treatment of the former socialist countries of East Europe. This means that along with the numerous restrictions already in force, special emphasis would be put on forbidding subsidiaries of U.S. companies located in other nations from having trade ties with Cuba, as well as confiscating ships that enter U.S. ports within 180 days of having been in Cuban ports.

The document makes it clear that if any government in the world lends itself to carrying out transactions with Cuba which benefit the latter in any way, the White House will suspend its aid to them and cut off the possibility of reaching agreements to establish free trade zones. In the case of those zones already established in the region, they would be excluded from the Initiative for the Americas and declared not eligible to receive benefits connected with the foreign debt.

The proposal by the New Jersey legislator also warns in a very clear tone that the relations of other countries' governments with the United States would depend on whether they complied with U.S. instructions with regard to Havana. In a section entitled "Support for the Cuban People," the document, which is being circulated in the House of Representatives, advocates facilitating travel for purposes connected with promoting human rights, democratic practices, and what it describes as nonviolent opposition activities. The bill also authorizes the U.S. President to provide different forms of aid to those he considers Cuban dissidents and their organizations, including facilitation of financial, press, and radio resources.

According to accredited press sources in Washington, the plan could be well received in Congress if the issue is connected with the elections to be held in November, and in which—as is well known—many members of Congress are running for reelection. The content of what some call the Torricelli bill is completely in harmony with the line followed by terrorist groups of Cuban origin located in Florida, where they train publicly and acknowledge to the media the operations they carry out against Cuba.

With respect to Torricelli, U.S. sources have said that his political record shows, in a few words, that he is a 24-karat opportunist. For example, in the days of James Carter's Democratic administration, Torricelli was an aide to then Vice President Walter Mondale; but later, when he realized that Mondale had no chance of winning against Reagan in the 1980 elections, he attacked him publicly with the aim of currying favor with the next Republican rulers. As another example, for several years Torricelli has used the Cuban issue, as well as financial resources provided by Mas Canosa's men, to play an important role in issues that will ensure his personal interests in the foreign policy field and attract the Cuban vote in New Jersey.

In 1988, Torricelli came out against the embargo against Cuba, since an important company located in his state that produces health products, Johnson & Johnson, did not approve of that White House policy. But now he not only defends the embargo fervently but lends himself to acting as the most visible sponsor of a bill attempting to intensify it as much as possible. Mondale's former aide is leading this crusade hand-in-hand with Godfather Mas Canosa who, by the way, is in the midst of a legal suit because one of his former colleagues, Jose Luis Rodriguez, has accused him of having carried out fraudulent business operations with the JDL Company of Kentucky, of which he is the major stockholder.

The most recent of the many mafia-style incursions Mas Canosa and his gang have carried out was directed against a newspaper that is marked by, among other things, its traditional positions against the Cuban Revolution: THE MIAMI HERALD. What was the sin that provoked the ire of the experienced and most powerful censor of what can be said in the major mass media in that Florida urban center? The newspaper simply dared to state in an editorial the opinion that the bill Torricelli is sponsoring to harden the embargo against Cuba to the greatest extreme possible seemed erroneous. As part of this crusade, Godfather Mas Canosa has even stated in recent days that that newspaper and its Spanish edition, EL NUEVO HERALD, are instruments of the Cuban Government, while he demanded the resignation of the publisher.

It is possible that this short summary of irregularities, manipulations, or abuses that in one way or another are connected with or touch Robert Torricelli, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Hemispheric Affairs of the

House of Representatives, will help to explain the reasons for the growing lack of trust the American people feel towards many of their legislators. For example, on 3 November THE WASHINGTON POST published the results of a survey which showed that 7 out of every 10 citizens interviewed said they thought that in their country politicians act according to special interest groups and not for the nation's good.

It is precisely in this context that it is worthwhile to formulate a reflection on the Torricelli bill. In the first place, its greatest and highest significance does not lie in the document itself. The angle that must be stressed with greatest emphasis is that this bill represents another serious warning to international public opinion about the type of thinking that is quickly gaining ground in broad and influential sectors of the U.S. Government and Congress. An obvious echo of this trend, the text presented at the beginning of February to the House of Representatives suggests the ratification of a law that is not limited in its powers to the country's territory, but that also dictates to other sovereign states in the world the orientation that must prevail in basic aspects of their respective foreign policies.

The message that for several months has been showing the tip of its nose in different international forums is very clear. After the Persian Gulf War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has fallen to Washington, as the only existing superpower, to set the rules of the game and enforce them in today's unipolar world. That is why those who are acting with that new political mentality proclaim it in the crudest and most undisguised language within the tall and solemn walls of the Capitol building: Anyone who does not meekly submit to our orders against Cuba will be harshly punished in the sphere of bilateral relations.

For years, and the precedent is encouraging, many voices in the international community—including the Nonaligned Movement, the Latin American Parliament, and even some of Washington's closest and most influential allies—have been raised to make clear their disagreements of a basic nature with the policy of the embargo against Cuba. In these days, and as never before in more than three decades, various parts of the globe have witnessed an impressive mass movement rejecting the U.S. embargo against Cuba which, ignoring the most basic human rights, even prohibits the purchase of American-made food, medicines, and medical equipment.

In this context, and in spite of the many pressures exerted by the White House to the contrary, the UN General Assembly in its 46th session last year decided unanimously to include this issue in the agenda, and later to continue its analysis and debate in the 1992 deliberations. The Torricelli bill, a simple external sign of the most intimate thinking of the highest U.S. Government circles in a time of a unipolar world, is an irrefutable proof and a warning that cannot be disregarded by men and women who are willing to dedicate their minds, ethical principles, and greatest efforts to upholding humanity's honor. For the peoples who are already mobilizing, it is another powerful reason to remain alert and to fight to prevent the world from becoming the private property of the United States and to preserve as something that is sacred and nonnegotiable the sovereignty of the world's nations.

Commentary on U.S. Manipulation of Mass Media

FL0603165292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Mar 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] In addition to the economic and political siege that the United States is trying to implement with a view to isolating the Cuban Revolution, the United States' mass media also play a vital part in disinformation and deception. One would think the truth was that which is disseminated by the West's news centers. For example, the United States spends more than $5 billion annually on propaganda operations. More than 350,000 employees keep that propaganda machinery functioning, and its product is aimed at other countries.

But let us set aside this propaganda machine, which the late Finnish President Urho Kekkonen termed "informational imperialism," and examine the other side of the coin: the so-called public, open, or commercial information based on technology. This world in which we are living is a world of images and perceptions and not realities. As the U.S. magazine CONTRAPUNTO [Counterpoint] points out, never before has the line between fiction and reality been so blurred. Also, never before have the mass media so greatly distorted reality as they are currently doing. Reality has come to be that which is projected by the mass media giants, rather than the real event itself.

Lurdes Gongora's article in this magazine points out that the main characteristic of this phenomenon, which is historically unique, is that what the great majority of people is told is very different from the objective reality that they have to live with. They are thus steeped in an optimism that is totally contradicted by their social possibilities. This leads them to become apathetic, subconsciously blaming themselves for their powerlessness and inability to influence something over which they have no control whatsoever. Supertechnology has permitted the West, especially the United States, to take control over news and entertainment, and with that combined industry it today manages the world's ideological property.

But setting theorizing aside, let us turn to the concrete facts of the news regarding Cuba. Among other things, we get hundreds of cables and images in our office that inform us and lead us to discover things in our country that we were not aware of and about which they are the first to inform us; for example, that in 1958 Cuba had the second- or third-highest standard of living, and that it has now dropped to 19th place. Matters such as the

progress made in health care in Cuba are not given a single line in these cables, nor a single minute in the newscasts.

The fact that the largest island in the Antilles has created a great intellectual and scientific potential does not matter as long as no steps are taken toward a so-called democratization, as defined by bourgeois theoretician[illegible] Who cares about the fact that not one single child in o... country goes hungry while thousands of children die in the region? Who cares about that, as long as there is no multiparty system? The fact that there is not one single indigent person on this island, or drugs, or prostitution, and that our health services have reached the farthest corners of the Sierra Maestra is not important—not if there is no market economy!

With respect to Cuba, this is what the masses of America and other parts of the world are being sold. And what happens? Repeated over and over again, these things turn into truths which even get into the minds of some of the leaders of our America. It is as simple as that.

European Parliament Group Calls For Embargo End

FL0703175592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] A call to lift the ongoing U.S. economic embargo against Cuba has been made in an open letter signed by 75 European Parliament deputies and made public today in Madrid. This document says such a measure is an affront to the dignity and life of our country.

The letter is signed by, among others, representatives of the European Left Unity coalition, the British Labor Party, the Portuguese Socialist Party, and Herri Batasuna of the Spanish Basque Country.

This same bloc of European Parliament deputies also addressed the continental commissioner for Latin America, Abel Matutes, to express their rejection of the suspension of all types of aid to Cuba. The deputies consider the decision adopted by the European Commission an alignment with the embargo imposed on Cuba by the United States.

Foreign Minister Comments on Bush Predictions

FL0603151092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who is attending a meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers today in Mexico City, in answer to a question from the press on recent statements by George Bush to the effect that he would set foot in a Cuba without Castroism, said that those who have in the past tried to force those doors open with evil intentions have failed.

Malmierca referred to reports of Bush's liking for astrology and his predictions based on astrology, saying that if the predictions are about a political change in Cuba, it looks as if the stars have led Bush to believe an illusion.

Malmierca on Integration, UNHRC Resolution

FL0603205692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has declared in Mexico City that Cuba is willing to cooperate with other Ibero-American countries to promote cooperation and the integration of the region.

The Cuban foreign minister, who is attending the Ibero-American foreign ministers meeting in Mexico City, which began today, explained that the progress achieved in fulfilling the agreements of the first summit held last year in Guadalajara should be analyzed in the meeting. Malmierca clarified that Cuba is not a guest at these meetings. It is not correct to speak of being invited. It is a meeting of the institution created in Guadalajara in which all its members will participate. Cuba is not a guest; it is a member of the Ibero-American conference.

He also said that the resolution approved by the UN Human Rights Commission against Cuba is not obligatory. He pointed out: We know the conditions created and prepared by the United States to force the ratification of this resolution; this leads us to consider it not worthy of being respected in any way. He thought that many UN organizations, including the Security Council and the Human Rights Commission, have become instruments to carry out the goals of powerful countries like the United States, which means that these organizations are deviating from the spirit of the UN Charter.

We must work toward the democratization of the United Nations, so that the role of the General Assembly will be respected, and so that a few countries with veto power will not be able to paralyze any process which is being developed within the organization.

Later on the Cuban minister emphasized that Cuba does not feel isolated, and he affirmed that when a Cuban goes to Mexico he feels even less isolated.

Participation in Ibero-American Summit Viewed

PA0703173092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] At a time when the United States is intensifying its attempts to isolate Cuba, the island does not feel alone and is willing to continue implementing an active foreign policy similar to that implemented in the last 30 years.

This was confirmed by the presence in Mexico of Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who traveled there to attend a meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers prior to the Ibero-American Summit, scheduled to take place in July in Spain. Malmierca correctly stated the

definition of Cuba's role in the international community when he stressed that the island is a Latin American, Caribbean, socialist, and nonaligned country.

We maintain and defend the need for integration, not only for development but also to survive as an independent group of countries with our characteristics, and work together toward accomplishing common goals, the Cuban foreign minister said.

The search for a natural incorporation into Latin America and the Caribbean represents one of the cornerstones of Cuban diplomacy, not only because of current opportunities but because it responds to old Cuban aspirations. Geographical proximity, cultural traditions, common background, and the similarity of interests lead to the integration of this continent's peoples, a vital step toward the region finding its correct place in the current and future world.

The active participation of Cuban President Fidel Castro in the first Ibero-American Summit, which took place in Guadalajara, Mexico, and the confirmation of his participation at the next summit in Madrid reveal the importance Cuba places on its resemblance to its neighbors. Of course, for Cuba, it is vital to achieve integration within a framework of political pluralism and on the basis of respect for the self-determination and independence of each Latin American and Caribbean country.

The aggravation of the logical differences that exist benefits only the interests of those who wish to stop the improvement of the natural ties among Latin American and Caribbean countries. This goes against the principles of Simon Bolivar and Jose Marti, two sons of this region who most fervently advocated integration.

Castro Meets With Yemeni Delegation on 3 Mar

FL0603165492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met on 3 March with the Yemeni delegation headed by Yahya al-Mutawakkil, a member of the Politburo of the General Congress of the Yemeni People. Yahya al-Mutawakkil led the joint delegation of the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party which visited our country at the invitation of the Central Committee.

Castro Presents Awards at Horticultural Center

FL0703021492 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] A few minutes ago Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, visited the (Leana Dimitrova) Horticultural Research Center located in Quivican, Havana Province. Upon arriving at the center he presented the 23 August award on the occasion of International Women's Day to seven noteworthy comrades from the Federation of Cuban Women, among whom were researchers, workers, internationalists, and agricultural workers.

On a cloudy afternoon with a few sprinkles of rain, the Cuban leader had a discussion lasting about an hour with Hortencia Cardoza, director of the (Leana Dimitrova) Center, Research Assistant Olimpia Gomez, and other members of the collective.

The president of the Councils of State and Ministers also signed an edition of the daily GRANMA in which the photo and statements of Olimpia Gomez appear. He wrote along with his signature: For Olympia in the Olympus of tomatoes.

UJC Congress To Discuss Defense Preparations

FL0603141292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Humberto Pilas Fernandez, Union of Young Communists National Committee member, by reporter Zenaida Costales on the "Exclusive" program—live]

[Text] [Costales] The holding of the Sixth Union of Young Communists [UJC] Congress is upon us, and the organizing commission for the subject of defense, which will be discussed at the Jose Marti Technical Military Institute, is getting ready. What will happen there? What is the aim of their analysis? What will be the main subjects to be discussed?

Humberto Pilas Fernandez, a member of the UJC National Committee, who is standing next to me, will talk to us about this.

[Pilas] The issues that will be discussed include three essential topics, that is, three main subjects. The first is national defense preparation, where we will analyze what defense is; the initial military training of Pioneers and students, in other words, high school students; the military training of university students; the creativity of young people in the construction of crude items for defense; and the role that the Youth Technical Brigades have been playing in this regard.

The second topic that we will discuss is the General Military Service, and within this topic we will discuss farewell ceremonies for new recruits; reception and attention for demobilized soldiers; attention to combatants during their service; and Order No. 18 [not further identified].

The third and last topic, which is open to debate.... [pauses] Although other issues may be discussed, we think the third topic should be the civil defense tunnels and the reforestation program. We believe that, from the work of this commission and from the discussion of the topics we have already mentioned, a group of initiatives will result, but it would be too soon to mention them here. It is better to wait for the day when the participants

from the Army and the delegates to the congress will have the final word on these issues.

We must add that right now, the U.S. Government or administration has made many declarations which tell us that this topic, among the topics that will be discussed at the congress, has a great deal of importance because of our need to continue preparing ourselves for this whole issue of defense in the war of all the people.

Raul Castro, Almeida Attend Western Army Meeting

FL0703031192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpt] An all-day meeting of the Military Council of the Western Army was held on 4 March with the presence of Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed forces [FAR], Revolution Commander Juan Almeida Bosque, other members of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], ministers, and high level military chiefs. The Military Council of the Western Army evaluated the result of the work conducted in 1991 and the projections for 1992.

Progress was reported on the preparation of the military theater of operation and particularly on work aimed at the protection of the people. The contribution of the masses has proven to be of great help in this effort despite the limitations imposed by the special period. With 68.4 million trees planted, reforestation in the western region received a boost during 1991. La Palma Municipality in Pinar del Rio was commended for planting 5 million trees and rivaling Manati in the western region.

[Begin Castro recording] When this plan began in Manati ....[pauses] a good location was picked because [words indistinct] and it is not going to rain until we have enough trees and there is also the ecological problem on a global scale. They calculated that with 2 million trees in lands that are not being used for anything else, the could fill up the municipality. Later, they changed it to 7 million. They reached the 7 million and thought that with that they would complete the municipality. How many millions have been planted by now in Manati? Twenty-five million! And they still have plans to continue planting without taking land away from any other crop. [end recording]

Achieving self-sufficiency among the soldiers with technical, housing, and agricultural projects is a goal that the Western Army is working to fulfill in 1993. The meeting carried out a profound analysis of the collaboration that, with these same goals, is provided by the leadership of the PCC in the territory, along with the Ministry of Sugar Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other organizations.

[Begin Castro recording] Among the efforts being conducted, one of the issues that I constantly insist on is the exchange of opinions among the municipalities of a province and among the provinces. The ideal situation for this [words indistinct] is for the provinces to encourage their municipal cadres internally with this and that example or experience, et cetera. The Armed Forces should also exchange experiences within their territorial sections and the province. [end recording] [passage with reporter comments omitted].

Financial Audit Reveals Stolen Goods Operation

FL0603165392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1508 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Missing inventories and diversion of state funds and materials totaling more than 532,000 pesos were detected at the conclusion of a financial audit made at the loading and unloading center of the Eastern Railway Division in Holguin.

Among the stolen products were more than 64,000 cans of meat; 25,000 bars of soap; thousands of pounds of detergent; hundreds of cans of condensed milk and [words indistinct] canned fruit; and men's and women's underwear. These items were intended for public consumption.

Because of this discovery, 80 citizens are being prosecuted for embezzlement, misappropriation, and receiving stolen goods, among other charges. Prosecutor (Santos Gil Borges) said that action must be taken against those who try to make a living through crime.

Activists Reportedly Missing in Havana

PA0603180792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Miami, 5 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Cuban activists Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz and Lazaro Loreto Perea have disappeared in Havana. The Human Rights Coordinating Board (Codehu) reported in Havana on 5 March that there is no information about their whereabouts.

The organization, which represents three Cuban dissident groups, said that it does not know whether the activists have been arrested by the Cuban Government.

"All we know is that they were on their way to a meeting of the Cuban Democratic Convergence (CDC) [Concertacion Democratica Cubana] at 1300 on 4 March and they have not been seen since," Ramon Cernuda, the Codehu representative, said.

Sanchez Santa Cruz is a leader of the Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation [Comision Cubana de Derechos Humanos y Reconciliacion Nacional], and Loreto Perea is a leader of the Political Rights Defense Association [Asociacion de Defensa de Los Derechos Politicos] (Adepo), Cernuda added.

Cernuda said that the activists have not been able to obtain any official information on the whereabouts of the leaders. "We do not know whether they have been arrested. No one has contacted the groups or their relatives," he concluded.

Haiti

Nerette Sees Resignation as Abandonment

FL0603212592 Port-au-Prince Radio and Television Nationale d'Haiti in French 1821 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Speech by Provisional President Joseph Nerette at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince—live]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Aware of the obligation fully to execute the authority of provisional head of state and, as such, to act as guarantor for the regular functioning of public powers and for the continuity of the state of order, I have invited you here today so that we can try together to dispel these doubts and these worries that have been expressed in this atmosphere of passion and emotion that I have noted. It is very important to the safeguarding of the general interest and the public peace that the entire nation know where it stands. You undoubtedly know that my role as head of state places me above the fray, obligating me to observe and to listen cautiously to the daily, public debate that is currently taking place, in the capital as well as throughout the entire country, concerning the agreement signed in Washington on 23 February 1992 by a delegation of parliamentarians.

Dear fellow citizens, you will all agree with me that, beyond the possible differences of perception and opinion as to the solutions that can best lead to a resolution of the current crisis, there is a moral obligation, which has been publicly noted here, that both the executive and the legislative powers have always accepted: that it was necessary to try to contain within reasonable limits the intolerable actions [les avancees inadmissibles] of the OAS on the inviolable land of our national sovereignty through a periodic, intelligent, and honest dialogue. [applause]

Therefore, at this decisive phase, I do not feel reluctant to evoke the honor and the merit legitimately deserved by all those parliamentarians who have joined their tireless devotion to the wisdom and the efforts of the government in order to bring confidence back to the terrified Haitian people, and to make the normalization of the sociocultural life possible, as well as the activities of a national economy, which is already very weakened and which the OAS seems to have sworn to destroy by all means. [applause]

Honor and glory to all those upright and lucid parliamentarians and to all the other public officials for all that they have courageously done over the past five months to support national interests and national sovereignty against partisan egoism, for their actions against covetousness, and against all those who incline to challenge our indefeasible right as a free and sovereign people. [applause]

Dear compatriots, today, in the name of this same general interest that it is my duty to defend and this same sovereignty that it is my mission to protect, I see myself obliged in light of the spirit and the letter of the Constitution to emphasize for the information of our legislators, as well as for the entire nation, that the agreement signed in Washington and scheduled for ratification by the National Assembly directly exposes both chambers to the risk of violating this same Constitution that they are pledged to respect and that I, in my capacity as head of state, have the duty to execute. [applause].

Entrusted with the duty of provisional president of the Republic under Article 149, I am, as a consequence, in conformity with the Constitution, also in charge of securing the protection of lives and properties, and the upholding of order and of public peace so that each individual may peacefully pursue those activities that he thinks are in conformity with the fulfillment of his aspirations.

By the same token, the Parliament's powers and responsibilities are distinct from those of the executive and are explicitly defined in the Constitution as to their authority, source of reference and inspiration, and relationship to one or the other branches of the government, the codepositories of national sovereignty. Furthermore, in the name of this national sovereignty that the three branches of power—executive, legislative, and judicial—have the joint mission to protect and defend, and, taking into account the obvious tendency of this organization to impose on us solutions that it thinks appropriate to our problems as a sovereign state: How can one, without flinching, commit himself to accept, on this holy land of our ancestors, the sending of this OAS civilian mission, the intention of which has been from the beginning to behave as an occupation force on the national territory? [applause] Who among us could forget so quickly the outrageous lessons from the past? Can we even now continue to be so naive as to grant, as if by magic, what in the past they obtained from us only under the threat of bayonets?

Therefore, I am sending these warnings and these questions of high national interest for the patriotic consideration of our legislators, as well as the entire nation. Because it will not be said in the history of this country that under the provisional presidency of Judge Joseph Nerette the integrity of the ancestors' patrimony was left exposed without defense, to be violated just because the leaders at the time lacked civic virtue and patriotic determination. [applause.] Dear compatriots, at this crucial turning point in our nation's history, it seems that my duty as head of state is to warn you about the danger that the entire nation would be subjected to if some of our legislators should persist in the perilous path of unconstitutionality. [applause]

Eventually, despite the destructive effects of this embargo maintained by the OAS in spite of the alarming cries from all people, cannot the Haitian people pride themselves on enjoying a measure of peace and security in justice? [applause] We all owe this set of favorable

conditions to the restoration of the democratic institutions under the aegis of the state of order which began on 8 October 1991. [applause]

I will not end this message without reminding our parliamentarians that we are now, more than ever, willing to carry on with the constructive dialogue which allowed us to get the nation out of the difficult deadlock which prevailed after 30 September 1991. [applause]

Dear compatriots, in view of this difficult and threatening situation, I beseech you not to lose confidence in your fate and in that of the common homeland. I also urge you to remain calm and clear-sighted as a definitive solution—a constitutional solution—will eventually triumph over the one that they want to dictate to us, that they want to impose on this independent and sovereign nation that we are. Thank you. [applause]

[Nerette, in Creole] Haitian people: I did not ask for power. [in French] Our being with you today results from a constitutional decision. It is alleged that I must resign. I would like to do so, with all my heart, if I would not be abandoning my country to all forms of nasty ambitions through this resignation. If you have called on me, it is because we want to build together a state of order. We will not....[switches to Creole] we will not be able to get out of this deadlock if we do not help one another. Try to understand because it is the country's integrity that is at stake today. So, I hope each Haitian will banish any hatred so that only love leads us and that we can save the country. [applause]

Lower Chamber Reaction

FL0703004692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies has not delayed in reacting to the speech by Provisional President Nerette. This evening, in a press release just issued, the conference of the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies states that the president's speech included several threats against the legislators.

The presidents of the committees of the lower chamber remind the executive of the independence of the legislative power.

Dupiton Urges Calm

FL0703011892 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1900 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Senator Thomas Dupiton on 6 Mar by correspondent Ferrari in Port-au-Prince—recorded]

[Text] [Ferrari] Senator Dupiton, how do you see the future of the situation?

[Dupiton] I am confident in the people and the leaders. Although there are a few excesses here and there and some people made some unfortunate, useless statements, I believe that everyone, the same way that they all danced in unity, should remain calm, so that they may work in unity in order to find the appropriate, patriotic solution. That is what the people expect from us. That is what the entire world expects from us—a patriotic solution. That is, Haitians are concerned because the country is collapsing in our hands. We must find a way to remain within the Constitution and satisfy the expectations of the Haitian people by giving them a solution that they can live with, without losing dignity, without losing pride. The parliamentarians, who represent the people, must listen to their choices and do exactly what will allow the people to be satisfied with the actions that are taken.

[Ferrari] Senator Dupiton, how do you see the government's position, that of the executive?

[Dupiton] The executive on duty? It seems that the executive is firm, meaning that it believes that the Parliament made an act of national rescue that they themselves responded to the Constitution's provision and that they will serve until they are given a constitutional solution that can allow the state to assure its continuity without danger. That is what is expressed by the government.

[Ferrari] Right now, how are the contacts between the government and the Parliament?

[Dupiton] I believe that this morning, according to what I just learned, since we did not meet, the executive had invited the presidents of the two chambers to a meeting. The presidents responded to the invitation. Until now, I do not know what took place in this meeting. We are waiting.

[Ferrari] Do you think that the Parliament will ratify the Washington agreement? If the Parliament does not ratify it, will there be some modifications?

[Dupiton] Many debates have already started within the executive, which asked many questions regarding the agreement, regarding some articles. For instance, it says all Parliament's decisions must be respected. By saying so, the executive believes that the first decision that the Parliament took was to call for Judge Nerette, as provided by the Constitution in order to guarantee the nation's security, the state's continuity, to avoid a breaking up of the state. The executive thinks that it is doing the job of assuring the state's continuity and that if the Parliament respects the act that it made—when saying all Parliament's decisions—the Parliament must also understand its decision of appointing Judge Nerette as president of Haiti—the executive says that it is a very confusing text and that the executive is legal and questions the Parliament's power to go negotiate without a specific mandate on its behalf. Therefore, this is what we have been hearing.

Delpe: Apply Constitution

FL0703011992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] There have been several reactions to Provisional President Joseph Nerette's speech. One is from Senator

Dupiton and another from his colleague Turneb Delpe. Senator Dupiton saluted the speech of President Nerette who, according to him, defended national sovereignty. Questioned on the president's position regarding the agreement, the legislator contented himself with relating a Creole proverb.

[Begin recording] [Dupiton] I came today to support a president whom the Constitution required us to appoint when the country was threatened. To convince him to accept power, we told him that we would stand by him until a constitutional way would allow him to leave, so that he does not leave the country to drift. It is my duty to stand by him. That is what I did as a citizen. The only institution that could ask the president to leave is the Constitution.

[Reporter] Senator Dupiton, how do you explain President Nerette's position regarding the agreement which you, yourself, participated in writing in Washington?

[Dupiton] I have told you already that I will not speak about a rope from which someone is already hung. [end recording].

We have an opposite opinion from Senator Turneb Delpe. He criticized President Nerette's speech and is asking why this government is using the Constitution as a war horse. For Turneb Delpe, the provisional executive cannot in any way give lessons to the elected Parliament regarding the respect of national sovereignty. Senator Delpe believes that the Parliament will go all the way.

[Begin Delpe recording] It is deplorable that the executive wants to solve the crisis by such a public conflict. If we understand the speech, there is an open conflict between the executive and the Parliament. I did not believe until now that anyone could give lessons to the Haitian Parliament on national sovereignty. I believe that all the work that we are doing at the Parliament—we are those who have been elected, who have our power from the people— we are the ones who have the first responsibility to guarantee national sovereignty. I do not think that we have ever acted in disrespect to national sovereignty although our national sovereignty has to be built. Because, as I always say, we are not responsible, we, this generation, that our country is as dependent as it is now. It is not our fault. To the contrary, it is President Nerette's generation that should be accountable to us. We are going all the way. Perhaps, when we reach where we have to go, we will see the executive's reactions, that we appointed—since we had the power to appoint, I believe that we have power to dismiss. However, we will use constitutional procedures. If they think that we used a constitutional procedure to appoint them, we can use the same means. By using this means, which we are sure is constitutional, we will see what the executive's reactions will be. [end recording]

Senator Belizaire Comments

FL0903145592 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Mar 92

[Communique signed by Senator Dejean Belizaire, president of the Haitian Senate; place and date not given]

[Text] Another reaction following the speech of Provisional President Joseph Nerette is that of Senator Dejean Belizaire who states that the Washington agreement does not challenge the country's sovereignty. In a communique, Senator Dejean Belizaire says that the Washington agreement protects the country's sovereignty and public order and boosts the economy. He adds that the 23 February agreement gives the Haitian parliamentarians the following rights:

—The deputies and senators have the right to accept or to reject the commitments included in the Washington agreement.

—They also have the right to accept or to reject the prime minister-designate. —They can agree or disagree with any OAS request to send a civilian mission in the country. In the event that the parliamentarians agree, they would personally be in charge of defining its characteristics, its methods, its authorities, and the number of people it should comprise.

Senator Dejean Belizaire further says in his note that the Washington agreement condemns any intervention of foreign forces in the settlement of the country's affairs.

The communique finally says that the Haitian Parliament will survive in spite of the antidemocratic words directed against it and that it will always act in compliance with the principal interests of the nation and in respect of the rules of the democratic game.

Parliamentarians: Government Powers Limited

FL0603174492 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The state-sponsored media [Radio Nationale, Television Nationale d'Haiti [TNH], and L'UNION] have been leading a campaign for several days against the agreement signed between ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the president of the Parliament in Washington on 23 February and against various parliamentarians and Prime Minister-Designate Rene Theodore. Yesterday, this campaign gave rise to a vehement reaction from an independent deputy, Frantz Robert Monday, who was very critical—in a session at the Parliament—of the attitude of the people who, according to him, have asked on TNH for the dissolution of the Parliament or the arrest of several parliamentarians. Deputy Robert Monday said: The provisional government resulted from a parliamentary vote and it can be.... [pauses] and (?only) a parliamentary vote can dismiss this government.

The provisional government does not have the right to dissolve the Parliament, stated Senator Turneb Delpe who thinks, on the contrary, that it is the Parliament that can dismiss the government because it appointed it to fill a political vacuum in the country. Let us listen to a report by Philippe Bien-Aime.

[Begin Bien-Aime recording] After the three carnival days, the main point in the Haitian political news is the maneuvers that are apparently being made so that the Washington agreement of 23 February is not ratified. If Provisional President Joseph Nerette was willing to vacate, the agreement could possibly be implemented. However, the head of government, Jean-Jacques Honorat, and several members of the ministerial cabinet are reportedly opposed to that and are ready to make important decisions that can go so far as to dissolve the Haitian Parliament. Anyway, this is what several informants in Port-au-Prince report.

According to Senator Turneb Delpe, the government of Jean-Jacques Honorat does not have the right to dismiss the Haitian Parliament. Senator Turneb Delpe adds that it is the assembly of senators and deputies that can dismiss the government which they established at a time when there was a power vacuum in Haiti. [passage omitted] National Front for Change and Democracy Senator Delpe goes on to outline the reasons one has to maintain Haiti in this critical situation and to prevent the aspirations of the masses, aspirations which he thinks were expressed through the 16 December elections from being reached. [passage omitted]

Today, 11 February [date as heard] marks the 11th day since the Washington agreement was signed between Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Rene Theodore, and the presidents of the two chambers, Dejean Belizaire and Alexandre Medard. Many observers think the Haitian people can no longer put up with the embargo that the OAS ordered against it on 8 October 1991. Essential food products are getting more and more expensive; the price of construction materials is very high; and health care, which was already very questionable in Haiti, has worsened day by day. In addition, there is the power outage problem that is hard on the people. [end recording]

El Salvador

'Bleak' Picture of First Month of Cease-Fire

'Not Very Encouraging'

PA0603180592 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Farabundo National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 5 March painted a bleak picture of the first month of the cease-fire, which is part of the peace accords. Among the elements the FMLN considers negative are the arguments unleashed following the land takeovers and the restructuring of the National Guard and Treasury Police.

The result of the first month of agreements presented by the FMLN is not very encouraging for the peace process. Visibly annoyed, Commander Jorge Shafik Handal questioned the current report on the alleged land takeovers. Handal accused the private sector of promoting destabilization.

[Begin Handal recording] It has been noted that the problem, presented as an attack on private property, serves to bring together business organizations to get them to agree with this sector's viewpoint. Thus, the first step is seen as a much greater effort to derail the agreements, which is really this sectors' position. [end recording]

Handal also considered dangerous the restructuring of the National Guard and Treasury Police that began on 2 March. He believes that this goes against the spirit of the peace and reconciliation process.

[Begin Handal recording] Why does the Army suddenly realize it needs a military police force? Suddenly. Not just any police force, but a force of between 6,000 to 7,000 men. Not just any men, but men from a corps famous for its torture and murder of people inside and outside its garrison. [end recording]

Handal believes that the National Guard conversion to border police could generate new conflicts in some areas.

[Begin Handal recording] Everyone knows that near the northern border there are a great number of FMLN members and a social base that has been involved in war. How can it be acceptable for these gentlemen—the same ones who used to come to wage war, the same ones responsible for massacres—to now police the area. [end recording]

Noting the results of the agreements in the first month since implementation, the FMLN command requested that the government once more take up the discussion and find a solution that allows the peace process to be maintained.

Will 'Continue To Arm Themselves'

PA0803150492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0022 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Havana, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Commander Roberto Rojas said at a 7 March news conference that Salvadoran guerrillas would continue to arm themselves to ensure the peace process.

Answering a question posed by NOTIMEX, Rojas reaffirmed that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) had abandoned the military option but would not accept "a military disadvantage" until an irreversible peace was attained.

He said the deactivation of the guerrilla war machine would be carried out gradually over the next nine months. The FMLN fighters, however, have not yet surrendered their weapons.

Rojas said now there is a cease-fire in the Central American country, but it will not be until "31 October when we will know the exact scope and perspectives of this program."

The commander criticized delays in implementing the agreements due to the obstacles placed by the Salvadoran Government, led by Alfredo Cristiani, and "extreme rightist political sectors."

"A month has passed since the cease-fire started. We see the lack of firm support for organizing the new National Civilian Police, which will be a key organization as FMLN comrades will participate in it," the rebel commander added.

In addition to the police issue, Rojas sees another point of conflict: the legalization of lands in the so-called conflict areas, which were controlled by the rebels.

Thousands of peasant families, who are not necessarily FMLN members, work the land in these areas. This represents 35 percent of total Salvador territory.

"The Nationalist Republican Alliance is violating the agreements each time it calls on large land owners to place their claims on these lands," Rojas stressed.

The commander said that over the next six months, the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (Copaz) must study and propose legal solutions to the land tenure problem and recognize the current occupants of the land.

Rojas said that at Copaz—which counts with the participation of six political parties—the FMLN and government agreed on the peace accords and these guarantee its implementation. "There is a spirit of agreement and the FMLN will do its share," the commander stated.

Rojas warned, however, that the rebel movement will not accept intentional delays caused by the government and extreme rightist organizations.

Although the FMLN command is not totally satisfied with the way the peace process is progressing, Rojas reaffirmed that they will not allow the process to be reversed.

He said the reduction of the Armed Forces and guerrilla troops must be carried out simultaneously and that the right conditions must exist so they can enter civilian life. Rojas added: "The government must take concrete economic measures."

Referring to the United States, Rojas said it lost approximately $4.5 billion it had invested in El Salvador during the war. Now it has a more practical attitude and is allowing the agreements to be implemented.

Rojas noted: "The consolidation of peace will only be possible if the U.S. Government is consistent with that position."

For Rojas, solidarity with the Cuban people and Cuba's Communist Party makes the FMLN feel indebted to respond to their friendly gestures, "during the difficult times" Havana "is going through."

He noted the medical attention received by hundreds of Salvadoran war disabled, who founded the 26 July Camp in the outskirts of Havana.

The commander asserted that those war disabled, "who are a symbol of our people's resistance and of Cuban solidarity," would soon return to El Salvador.

Army General on Peace Agreements

PA0703231192 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Deputy Chief of Staff General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas on 6 March denied that the Army has disregarded the peace agreements by turning security forces into military policemen and border guards.

The transfer of the Treasury Police and National Guardsmen to the Army has generated strong criticism from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which believes that the government has violated the Chapultepec Agreements. According to ranking guerrilla leaders, members of the security bodies were allowed to join the Army to prevent the country's criminal ranks from swelling, but the government intends to maintain those organizations.

[Begin Vargas recording] There has been no violation. The agreements clearly specify that on the date in question the National Guard and Treasury Police will cease to be public security forces and be transferred to the Army. This is the letter and spirit of the agreements. The agreements state that the security bodies cannot continue as public security forces, and that the government cannot transfer them to any other sector but the Army. If they are to become a border police force or border guards and do the work of the military police, the government must conduct the necessary studies and analyses. [end recording]

The military official accused the FMLN of delaying the peace process by violating the deadlines established for the presentation of land inventories. With regard to the return of settlers to areas that were allegedly under guerrilla control, Gen. Vargas said that the settlers are illegally occupying private property.

[Begin Vargas recording] Individuals working in those areas on land that does not belong to them have known that at any given time the situation would have to be resolved in accordance with the agreement. [end recording]

To conclude, the military chief categorically denied that the FMLN has been involved in armed incidents along the Honduran border, as has been widely rumored. He declined to comment on possible outbreaks of violence with the Honduran Army when the International Court of Justice hands down the decision that will resolve the border conflict with El Salvador which, he said, is entirely a political issue.

Honduran Media Alleges Army, FMLN Clashes

PA0703002092 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] There are reports from Tegucigalpa that Salvadoran Army troops and Farabundo Marti National Liberation members have clashed in San Luis de la Reina, Morazan Department, in eastern El Salvador, according to Honduran media quoting military sources.

According to reports disseminated 6 March in Tegucigalpa, light artillery and rifles were used in the confrontation that took place in the afternoon of 4 March. Another military source said there were other encounters on 1 March in Morazan, but this information was ruled out by the UN Observers for El Salvador mission.

It was learned that Honduran Army patrol verified the clashes took place in the border area. The reports about confrontations between the Salvadoran Army and guerrillas circulated in Honduras, after military intelligence reports stated Salvadoran rebels were distributing land along the disputed border.

Salvadoran leftist Deputy Mario Aguinada Carranza told Honduran Radio America that the reports on confrontations and alleged land distributions are being manipulated by Honduran politicians to distract people from their own problems. Aguinada said there are problems with the changes in military leadership in Honduras and over the decision by President Rafael Callejas to reduce the number of Army troops and increase the number of policemen. There are also problems in Honduras because a large peasant movement is demanding participation in the new agrarian policy of the country, Aguinada concluded.

Court Upholds Sentences for 'Zona Rosa Massacre'

PA0803022592 Paris AFP in Spanish 1638 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Mar (AFP)—Salvadoran judicial authorities upheld the sentences for the persons implicated in the mass murder of 13 persons, including four U.S. Marines, in July 1985, it was officially reported on 7 March.

San Salvador's Second Criminal Court ruled that William Celio Rivas must serve 25 years in jail and Jose Abraham Dimas must serve four. The court, however, reduced from 11 to seven years in jail the sentence of Juan Miguel Garcia, accused of cooperating in subversive propaganda, associating with subversive groups, and making preparations for terrorist actions.

Judicial authorities noted that Dimas and Garcia could be released since they have been in jail since 1986.

In 1987, a military judge sentenced the accused to 25, 11, and 4 years imprisonment, respectively, but the same court enforced an amnesty decree issued as a result of the "Esquipulas II" agreements and ordered their release.

Then President Jose Napoleon Duarte revoked the ruling and the accused remained in jail. According to the peace agreements, which put an end to the 11-year civil war, they should have been released based on the amnesty law.

Members of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, one of the five organizations that comprise the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, carried out the "Zona Rosa Massacre."

Guatemala

Gen. Samayoa Denies Counterinsurgent Offensive

PA0703021392 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 6 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Guatemalan Army will comply with the constitutional mandate to promote the country's integral development, to participate and contribute to the peace negotiation process while defending the Guatemalan people, Defense Minister General Jose Garcia Samayoa said when denying an alleged counterinsurgent military offensive.

We cannot and should not be talking about accelerating the war to exterminate the rebels because we are going through a negotiation process with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] leaders to attain peace agreements so Guatemalans can live in peace and promote the socioeconomic development process of the nation, he said.

On 5 March, Defense Minister Garcia Samayoa told the defense commission deputies that the guerrilla plans to affect adversely the country's economy, especially in the southern coast, have been completely dismantled.

The presence of Army units was essential to dismantle the destruction plans and we, therefore, can say that the Army has control over the entire national territory.

He also talked to the congressmen about the different infrastructure plans being drafted by the Engineering Battalion of the Army in the remote areas of the country to benefit the isolated communities.

In addition, he discussed the procedures being used to recruit people for military service and announced that very soon a bill will officially be submitted to Congress regulating this military service mechanism.

Gen. Garcia Samayoa said guerrilla Ramon de la Mora was killed in a clash with Army troops. An identification card issued to him in Chiapas, Mexico was found among his belongings, which led us to conclude that he was a mercenary working for the URNG.

Nicaragua

Antigovernment Protests on Pan American Highway

Honduran Ambassador Held

PA0603220392 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2103 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Mar (DPA)—Approximately 300 men with weapons from the so-called Nicaraguan "recontras," who were occupying a stretch of the Panamerican Highway in the Nicaraguan village of Dupali, km 192, stopped Honduran Ambassador Mario Maldonado for two hours.

The diplomat told Tegucigalpa Radio America he was stopped when driving his vehicle from Honduras to Managua on 5 March. The recontras threatened the ambassador with their rifles and forced him to stop.

The situation became dangerous when approximately 700 recompas appeared in the vicinity and began shooting. A clash lasting 15 minutes ensued, Maldonado said.

The Honduran ambassador, as well as other people stopped on the highway, were able to leave the area because of the arrival of the Special Disarmament Brigade of the Nicaraguan Army.

The "recontras," who were organized following the demobilization of the "contras" in 1991, were protesting on the Panamerican Highway against the Violeta Chamorro government because the government has not fulfilled its promise to give them land.

Groups Want Promises Fulfilled

PA0603235092 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with reporter Francisco Machado by an unidentified correspondent in Ocotal—live]

[Text] [Machado] I am reporting for Radio Informaciones at 1312. The city is still occupied. In the city and nearby areas about 1 km from here, there are approximately 1,200 armed men. They are recompas and former members of the Nicaraguan Resistance, who have formed a bloc to make social and economic demands of President Chamorro's government. The situation is tense because special Army troops were deployed in Ocotal with six Sandinist Air Force helicopters. Now the recompas and recontras joint general staff are holding talks with municipal representatives, including (?Ramon Taboada) from the interior department, Mayor Arnulfo Aguilera, and representatives of the CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS] who estimate the number of recompas and recontras is larger than [words indistinct]. This is what the CIAV-OAS reports on the number of men and weapons in Ocotal.

[Report] Francisco, are the recontras and recompas mobilizing in the urban sector of the city?

[Machado] Yes. They have joined to form a single bloc. They are saying they are forming a front similar to the one recently formed in Matagalpa. The only difference is this is a national peasant front, armed to defend its demands and ask the government to fulfill the promises it made to them. These promises were widely reported, such as the distribution of lands to members of the Resistance, former members of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], and the Government Ministry; also the legalization of lands already assigned by the agrarian reform, bank credits for basic grain crops, coffee, tobacco, and cattle breeding.

[Reporter] What is the Army controlling at present? Where are the Army's troops right now? According to the Army's spokesman they had the city totally under control.

[Machado] The only control the Armed Forces have is at the National Police Headquarters, which is where the National Police troops have concentrated, and at the security forces' facilities. The Army also sent troops to the outskirts surrounding Ocotal to control the recontras and recompas mobilization, but the city is still under the insurgents' controls.

[Reporter] Does this mean that at 1815 on 6 March, the recontras and recompas still have the city of Ocotal occupied?

[Machado] That is so, and not only the city of Ocotal; the insurgents also have taken control of the urban sectors of Pepegalpa and La Laguna municipalities. They have also occupied a large stretch of the highway running from Ocotal, passing through the municipalities of Mozonte, San Fernando, and Santa Clara, which is close to the municipalities of Japala and El Jicaro. This is the area the rearmed groups have occupied.

There is also another group of approximately 500 armed men who are in Jucuali. It is comprised of 300 recompas and 200 recontras. If the government does not talk with them they will make the decision, just as those in the Ramon Ponce Serrano northern front who occupied Ocotal from the evening of 5 March. If the government does not meet the demands they are making, they will also occupy the city of Condega. The armed groups in Jucuali may occupy the city of Condega on 6 March.

[Reporter] Have there been any deaths, wounded, or kidnapped thus far?

[Machado] Let me assess the situation. Water and power services are normal. Public and cargo vehicles that travel to the various towns in Madriz and Esteli Departments, as well as the municipalities of Jalapa, Quilali, and El Jicaro, are circulating normally. Trade at the markets is normal and stores are open. The health center, hospital, and schools are operating. The situation is normal. The only thing different is the presence of the armed groups. The only places occupied by the recompas and recontras are the departmental branch of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute in Nueva Segovia, Ocotal, and since noon Radio Segovia, and (?La Voz del Pinar) radio station. This is all the armed groups have done. They are negotiating with the municipal authorities.

I interviewed a recontra who joined the recompas, the 600 hundred men from Jalapa, El Jicaro, Quilali, and San Juan del Rio Coco. He calls himself Chelin. Here is what he said.

[Begin Chelin recording] We have adopted a joint position. We support the comrades who retired from the Army. Their demands are just and we support them [words indistinct]. The government has not fulfilled its promises to the members of the Resistance and the retired soldiers. The government has a commitment to the people. [end recording]

[Machado] The final report I have now is that international traffic on the Pan American Highway that leads to the [word indistinct] border post is totally blocked; there is no entry or departure of private or state vehicles.

[Reporter] One final question, Francisco Machado. Here in Managua international press releases indicate there are Honduran troop movements on the Nicaraguan border.

[Machado] So far the military authorities have not reported this. The recompas, who have occupied a good part of Nueva Segovia, have not reported on this situation either. Instead, they have been saying on Radio Segovia that the people should remain calm because they do not want a confrontation. They are doing all they can for the municipal authorities to intervene and for the government to refrain from using the Army and police to fight them. They do not want bloodshed.

Further Developments

PA0803130092 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Jilma Rodriguez and Marta Marina Gonzalez]

[Excerpts] Ocotal, Nueva Segovia Department —The nearly 1,000 rebels who have been occupying Ocotal since 5 March agreed to meet in two spots near the town's entrance to hold talks on 8 March with a government commission.

Deputy Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta flew to Ocotal at 1100 on 6 March to contact the rebels. He told BARRICADA some 600 recompas and recontras were staging an armed protest, although there was no violence. He said the protest was "uncalled for" because negotiations were held with them a few weeks ago.

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado established a regional commission consisting of Government Ministry [Mingo] local delegate Crisantes Castillo, Regiment Commander Luis Chavez, Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Agurcia, and Dr. Alfonso Sandino, National Reconciliation Program director.

The rebels' general staff, including recompas led by a former Sandinist People's Army [EPS] captain, named Memin, and several former recontra leaders, agreed with a local government delegation to withdraw and clear the roads.

The municipality and the International Commission of Support and Verification [CIAV] pledged to provide food and security to these men. "Our presence is meant to call on the government to begin a dialogue and negotiate the legalization of 4,000 manzanas, free education in rural areas, security, and road repairs," a leader named Jaguar stated.

"We are not warmongers and do not want to negotiate for our weapons," Jaguar, who also belongs to the Prudencio Serrano Front, added. Some 400 former RN members joined this front to demand the government keep the commitments they made.

Airborne rapid deployment troops occupied Ocotal on 7 March, and rounded up all the rebels without incident. Since then, only buses have been able to leave the city. People are staying in their homes in fear. The rebel command post was located in the municipality's workshops.

An air squad that flew in the troops occupied the Ocotal schools throughout the morning of 7 March. Rebels apparently believed the troops were members of the government commission.

EPS First Command Chief Agurcia said his duty was to restore order but admitted the demands issued by the rebels required a peaceful solution.

Due to the helicopter flights and the presence of a large number of armed men, the Education Ministry suspended classes, some private establishments closed their doors, and the police imposed a ban on alcohol consumption throughout the city.

Until 6 March, the rebels' general staff had been in constant contact with CIAV delegates, Mingo and municipality officials, and others, who were acting as a liaison with Managua in the negotiations. "Otherwise, we will stay here, and we will turn Nueva Segovia into a powder keg," Jaguar vowed.

The Popular Struggle Front [Frente de Lucha Popular] supported the rebels with vehicles, food, and other provisions. The former RN members are keeping contingency forces, "just in case."

Former RN member Ernesto Bustamante, who surrendered his weapon in Dacuali recently, said the government has not kept its promises, and "that is why we are here, supporting these men. Instead of homes we have been given shacks where there is not even room for three people. We have no work. The legal status of our lands has not been determined in Santa Barbara or Jalapa-."[passage omitted]

Last minute reports from Ocotal indicated the rebels decided against leaving the city. They said if the government did not negotiate with them while they were in the city, then they will not talk with them after they leave Ocotal.

Tension could rise over the next few hours if the rebels stay in Ocotal, which is surrounded by EPS soldiers.

Government 'Currently Negotiating'

PA0803032992 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2034 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Managua, 7 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 700 armed men continue to occupy the northern city of Ocotal, which is close to the border with Honduras, on 7 March. The Nicaraguan Government is currently negotiating with the leaders of the rebel group.

Ocotal was occupied on 5 March by "rearmed" men who are former fighters of the so-called Nicaraguan "contras" and demobilized soldiers from the Sandinist Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock, the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) spokesman, reported on 7 March that the rebels had refused to withdraw from the area and continue to peacefully occupy the city streets. Ocotal is the capital city of Nueva Segovia Department.

A government commission, headed by Deputy Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, reached initial agreements with the rebels on 6 March and continued the negotiations on 7 March.

Wheelock reported that they reached agreement on land tenure, disarmament, and social benefits for those who demobilize.

The EPS sent a special battalion to the area and a fleet of helicopters overflew the city on 6 March. However, government troops have not clashed with the recompas

and recontras who occupy the city and who are armed with AK rifles and hand grenades.

On Radio Ya, Wheelock announced that the rapid deployment battalion would be withdrawn gradually on 7 March, after traffic on the Pan American highway and other main access roads to Ocotal has been restored.

The military spokesman stated that the Army will not allow this type of armed protest and that he would impose order if necessary.

The occupation of Ocotal is the first action carried out by an irregular force of both bands in a single bloc. They demand that the government of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro comply with the promises made to them.

The situation is tense in the city due to the deployment of an elite Army battalion and the overflight of 12 helicopters on 6 March.

The rebel command staff, which includes a former captain of the EPS border guards and several "recontra" chiefs, have made specific demands with regard to free education, security, and the food supply in rural areas.

Managua media has reported that the Honduran Army has sent troops to the border area as a precaution against possible incidents.

The Nicaraguan Government informed the Honduras Government on 6 March that it was sending troops to the Ocotal area, very close to the border area.

Daniel Ortega on Censorship, Democracy, Media

PA0703173292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Mar 92 pp 1, 8

[Article by Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, issued in Managua on 5 March: "Democracy for All, Without Censorship"]

[Text] The new political and social changes that have taken place in our country ascribe to the media the fundamental role of informing, using all possible means of communication.

Journalists, as members of the information industry, play a very essential part in this. So it is important to point out from a revolutionary standpoint and as part of the revolutionary plan, that a debate on how to optimize the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN's] communication resources represents recognition of journalists' day-to-day work. It represents also the confirmation of the Sandinist commitment to freedom of thought, freedom to inform, and freedom of speech as a means of guaranteeing that all forms of thought, opinions, ideas, criticism, and all other such efforts, may be published or broadcast democratically and without any form of censorship. In so doing, we would be improving living conditions for everyone in our country.

In opening the debate about the operation of FSLN media, the FSLN shows its awareness that Sandinism is a conglomerate of thinking, critical, and contributing individuals who have the right and the duty to express our ideas; to promote and bring about change in the intellectual, political, economic, and social movement in our country and the FSLN.

To open this debate is to contribute to the development of better conditions to express all those points of view that will continue to nurture the FSLN.

Debate yes. But debate must be carried out in conjunction with the daily struggle of the workers, the masses, the peasants, the poor, and the people.

The political culture of Sandinism must be a constant flow of participation, reflection, propositions, discussion, and accomplishment. It must stimulate creativity, intelligence, and the intellectual, political, and basic challenges we revolutionaries have set for ourselves.

It has been in this spirit, taking into account the opinions of those Sandinists who have been demanding new and broader discussion of the FSLN's present and future, that we have stressed the importance of such reflection and discussion taking place in total freedom, without censorship, self-censorship, or pressure of any kind against any individual. This means democracy is for everyone.

This includes thinking about, proposing and discussing any issue; new organizational forms, new structures, new mechanisms, new leaders, new ways of day-to-day communication and operation in the FSLN, in the new historic circumstances, so that we can move with our people toward solving their serious problems. It means addressing new proposals in light of the economic crisis, or new ways of struggling in a world where the search for justice should continue to be the ideal and a revolutionary act.

The challenge faced by the world's revolutionaries to continue carrying out revolutionary ideas and actions in view of the crumbling of structures and models is enormous. The hopes of the workers and the poor people of the world are enormous; their rights are ancient and yet to be fulfilled.

To work for Nicaragua, for the revolution, for true freedom, it is necessary for us to learn to communicate as revolutionaries. It is essential that the FSLN continue to set an example of the democratic will that has been the basis of its history and of its demands for change. It is essential for all revolutionaries to accept the challenge to contribute, participate, listen, discuss, and learn to develop a new theory and new practices that will be the fruit of our minds and our souls.

We will truly be rising to the challenge of the times, the people's demands, and above all we will be on the road to finding new ways of making revolutionary history if we have a Sandinist media, if we have Sandinist journalists,

if we have thinking Sandinists at all levels of society, and if we ensure the proper conditions so all ideas can be expressed with true freedom, with full democracy, and without any type of censorship.

Sandinist followers have clearly defined their concerns and needs about criticism, discussion, participation, and seeking new proposals. FSLN leaders and cadres are obliged to listen to demands and to encourage and ensure greater participation, more discussion, more effective ways to work together for the future. FSLN media should not restrict in any way their journalists, members, or any Nicaraguans with a dedication to fatherland and justice. [Issued] Managua, 5 March 1992

BARRICADA Response

PA0703130492 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Mar 92 p 3

["Declaration" issued by BARRICADA journalists and photographers in Managua; date not given]

[Text] The recent statements by Commander Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, contain implications that could damage the personal dignity and professionalism of our group of journalists and photographers.

Most of the journalists currently working for this newspaper are the same ones who worked here during the revolutionary decade. We are legitimately proud to state that we took upon ourselves the responsibility of being the official FSLN mouthpiece. Our active and conscientious journalism during the revolutionary period allowed us to take on the political and media demands imposed by foreign aggression. We defended the low income sectors and the country's sovereignty with combativeness and courage. We also "did our share" [mordimos el leno] as war correspondents in the mountains.

We have had to readapt our informative task because of postwar realities, the people's agreement, and to protect the revolutionary victories. This has meant less propaganda and political activism and more professional journalism.

BARRICADA's code of ethics, discussed and approved in 1991, defines the newspaper as "a daily national newspaper of general information, committed to the thorough democratization of our society from the position of the low income sectors, which comprise most of our people." The code established the principles that define our newspaper (commitment to readers, professional responsibility, the use of sources, basic ethical standards, and publicity policy) and we have responsibly complied with them.

BARRICADA has no journalists who use the FSLN's resources for their benefit or who promote their own political interests.

It offends BARRICADA journalists when somebody says people who want to publish their opinions in the newspaper must pay for it. This paints us as journalists who yield to the corrupt practice of "selling to the highest bidder" [venadeo]. The only space in the newspaper available for sale to advertisers is regulated by publicity directives and implemented by the newspaper's management.

If journalists and other workers at BARRICADA have ever taken anything from the newspaper, it is the prestige and honor of having founded and built it and of having consolidated a modern media organization. An organization that is self-sustaining and yields an important economic allotment—as none other—to support the FSLN.

The profit we, working at the newspaper, have attained is the moral authority and prestige of our writing, and the credibility given to our newspaper. Our low wages and the fact that we have had to work even "with our nails" are proof of our social and political commitment and our journalistic discipline and vocation.

Since the FSLN National Directorate decided BARRICADA would not be an official FSLN newspaper, we have made an important contribution to promoting the democratization process of Sandinism and society. The newspaper opened its editorial pages to the opinions of the most diverse national sectors, including the low-income sector. It recorded news and events from the country's wide political and social spectrum according to professional standards.

We defend the political depolarization of society and the democratic solution of conflicts in accordance with FSLN principles and our code of ethics. The "depolitization" or "de-Sandinization" [desandinizar] of BARRICADA is not a whim.

To inform truthfully does not make us "neither fish nor fowl." To state the truth does not mean we lean toward the government's positions, much less separate us from the people's interests.

In this country, BARRICADA has stood out because it has denounced the corruption in government and its unpopular policies. It has been a guide in defense of the law and its use by the people.

Based on our professionalism, but also out of political conviction, we, the journalists, do not fear debate. We have always believed it is good for the country, and especially for Sandinism, to debate our ideas. Thus, as FSLN members and followers and as journalists, we defend freedom of expression as the citizens' incontrovertible right and as a necessity for the creation of a critical conscience in the people.

We believe it is constructive for the Sandinist Assembly to collect information, study, and discuss the operations of BARRICADA and all other Sandinist media, without exception. We believe it is constructive that the Assembly study thoroughly all the topics on the FSLN agenda as a general norm.

As BARRICADA journalists, we invite readers and contributors to continue sending in their opinions and invite the general public to continue viewing the newspaper as a medium that will make your voice heard. This is our only stand.

[Signed] Group of BARRICADA journalists and photographers: Onofre Guevara L., Sofia Montenegro, Guillermo Cortes Dominguez, Maria Alicia Talavera, Darwin Juarez, Roberto Fonseca, Alfonso Malespin, Auxiliadora Mercado, Juan Ramon Huerta, Luis Valverde, Silvia Torres, Adolfo Montano, Rene Pineda Hernandez, Pablo Emilio Barreto, Janellys Carrillo, David Gutierrez Lopez, Dolores Rugama Lopez, Roberto Larios Melendez, Carlos Garcia Castillo, Oscar Cantarero, Brenda Trejos, Abdul Sirker Urroz, Vilma Areas Morales, Jairo Cajino, Mildred Largaespada, Pablo Cerna Pineda, Carlos Duran Pallaviccini, Mauricio Duarte Guevara, German Miranda, Edgardo Tijerino Mantilla, Martin Ruiz Borge, Miguel Lorio Castro, Aurora Sanchez.

Panama

U.S. To Decide Rate of Withdrawal From Country

PA0703172992 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Mar 92 p 8

[Report by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares says that, according to the canal treaties, the rate at which the U.S. military bases are withdrawn from Panamanian territory is an issue for U.S. authorities to decide.

The foreign minister's remarks were prompted by international reports that President George Bush has suddenly changed the plan to return to the Panamanian Government most of the Panama Canal's facilities and nearby U.S. bases prior to the 1999 deadline.

The National Security Council has ordered the suspension of motions that could prolong the withdrawal of the 10,000 U.S. troops that have been in Panama for many years.

According to Linares, the Republic of Panama is interested solely and exclusively in the withdrawal of the U.S. troops stationed on bases in the canal zone at 1200 on 31 December 1999.

Argentina

Cabinet Discusses Peacekeeping Forces for SFRY

PY0703010192 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Mar 92 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The National Cabinet decided yesterday to form a commission made up of Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and Foreign Minister Guido di Tella to "guarantee the exsistence of funds" to pay for the presence of Argentine troops as part of a peace-keeping force operating as from next month in the former Yugoslav federation.

After the Cabinet meeting, Gonzalez told the press that the Argentine troops will be part of a 14-country contingent which "must be in Europe by the second week of April."

The defence minister said the Cabinet also discussed the "restructuring and streamlining the Armed Forces," which includes an important reduction in the number of conscripts who comply with their military service each year. Gonzalez explained that the current decrease in the number of soldiers was "due to a problem of budget and wages but it has nothing to do with a deliberate plan."

Meanwhile, the Army top brass presided by Chief-of-Staff General Martin Balza held a meeting yesterday morning to discuss details of the military battalion which will be sent to Yugoslavia. The generals considered ways in which the approximately 1,000 men will be transported.

Balza told his aides about his recent trip to Europe and briefed them on the donation of military materiel made by United States Defence Secretary Richard Cheney during his recent visit to Buenos Aires.

Gonzalez and Defence Ministry Planning Secretary Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal will hold a meeting with the top Army commanders today in order to discuss national defence policy with them.

The officers and non-commissioned officers to be sent to Yugoslavia are already being trained in their respective units. They will probably be transferred to Campo de Mayo to carry out joint exercises next week.

The Argentine troops in the United Nations peace contingent will be headed by Colonel Luis Lagos and Lieutenant-Colonel Fernando de la Serna.

In related developments, various opposition deputies yesterday asked the government to "abstain from meddling in the internal affairs of the Republic of Iraq by sending warships to participate in a blockade aimed at forcing the removal of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein." Argentina participated with two vessels in a multinational force which threw Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in February 1991.

In fact, the group of Radical, Intransigent, Socialist and dissident Peronist legislators demanded the government "not to participate in any measure aiming at Hussein's overthrow."

Gonzalez: Funds 'Guaranteed'

PY0703185592 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Mar 92 p 10

[Excerpts] While the vehicles that will accompany the peacekeeping forces being sent to Yugoslavia began to be repaired at military workshops yesterday, the defense minister stressed that the funds to pay for the operation were guaranteed.

Antonio Erman Gonzalez talked about the Argentine forces that will be part of the UN peacekeeping forces and pointed out that the contingent will travel to the former Yugoslavia in the second half of April. He said that the financing for the battalion's traveling expenses and stay in the area of conflict was guaranteed.

This issue was discussed at length during yesterday's cabinet meeting, and various opinions were exchanged. [passage omitted]

Out of the 860 soldiers comprising the battalion, 110 are officers and 750 are noncommissioned officers. It has been learned that three military personnel applied for each vacancy, and that a command of the English language was a requirement for some of them to become a member of the forces.

The Argentine troops will be headed by battalion commander Colonel Luis Lagos. The group will also include Lieutenant Colonel Fernando de la Serna (deputy commander); Majors Jose Cimmaruzti, Osvaldo Tosco, Guillermo Vith, Alberto Deluchi, Julio Teran, Ivan Lanusse Shaw, Raul Costa, Hugo Elias, and Luis Amatto; Captains Jose Doproviec and Walter Dominguez; and noncommissioned officer Felix Godoy.

The battalion will have about 50 trucks (which began to be repaired yesterday) and about 30 armored personnel carriers, including some 15 gunned armored personnel carriers manufactured locally that were finished recently at the Argentine Medium Tank manufacturing plant. During a meeting held yesterday, [Army Chief of Staff] General Balza announced that he will report on the mission at a news conference scheduled for 10 March.

GATT Praises Government Economic Achievements

PY0603202892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1847 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (TELAM)—The GATT today praised the profound economic changes imposed in Argentina by President Carlos Menem, which among other achievements, have reduced inflation to its lowest level in the past 20 years.

The report released today coincides with the agreement reached by Argentina with the IMF for a $3.609 billion extended credit facility to reschedule its foreign debt and to place the country on the doorstep of the Brady Plan, as announced yesterday by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

Economic and diplomatic sources have stated that the report issued by the GATT Secretariat analyzes the positive results of the liberalization of the markets, the profound fiscal reform, privatizations of public enterprises, reduction of state expenditures, and the new Argentine money, the peso, with a one-to-one parity with the U.S. dollar.

"These measures are beginning to yield its effects, because inflation has been reduced to its lowest rate in the past 20 years, the capitals are returning to the country, exports are increasing, and although imports have been reduced, the considerable trade surplus has not been eliminated," the GATT report states.

It adds that "the changes imposed in the fiscal, monetary, commercial, and industrial policies with the purpose of promoting the country's economic recovery are yielding important results," with merit to the successful offensive launched by the government to prevent the high tax evasion rate.

"Tariffs have been reduced to an average of 12.2 percent and the restrictions which have affected a large share of the Argentine industry have been eliminated, except for the automobile industry," the GATT adds in the section specifically dedicated to trade.

"Moreover, the protection of the automobile industry is being reassessed, because it will have to be modified in accordance with the recently ratified Common Market of the South (Mercosur) that comprises Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The Mercosur intends to reduce to zero the customs duties in trade between these countries by the end of 1994."

The report released today admits that the Argentine economic reforms have already managed "to reduce considerably the export duties which until then had restricted the development of the effective agricultural and agro-industrial areas of the country."

The Argentine economic policy abroad has been strongly promoted by President Menem in his latest trips abroad, especially his recent visit to Europe, where he received the recognition of European experts, among them, very significant recognition from French President Francois Mitterrand.

Cavallo Returns From Seminar, Business Meetings

PY0703180292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1409 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo returned this morning from Mexico where he attended an economic seminar together with Mexican Government officials and also met with businessmen and representatives from international banks. Cavallo arrived at the Ezeiza International airport at 0930, and he made no statements to journalists.

While in Mexico the Argentine economy minister conducted a campaign to attract foreign investors for the privatizations scheduled for this year.

Yesterday, following a meeting with representatives of the U.S. Morgan Guaranty Trust, Cavallo said: So far we have privatized companies worth $7 billion, that is, 25 percent of the total value of corporate assets in the hands of the states.

He added: "This year we are planning to obtain $14 billion more by selling state companies, so only $7 billion worth of shares in certain companies like Government Oil Deposits will be left for later."

The minister explained that the investment-seeking campaign will be carried out through seminars that will be held throughout the world. Thus, he said, "we have held meetings with investors in New York and Brussels where the people in charge of the privatizations explained the opportunities that Argentina is offering. The next meeting will take place in La Jolla, California."

Cavallo explained that this year's main privatization project is everything that has to do with the generation and distribution of electric energy. He also said that real investments in Argentina grew by $6 billion in 1991.

Cavallo, Gonzalez Disagree on Edcadassa Issue

PY0703162292 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] The dissemination of a letter that the Economy Ministry sent to the Defense Ministry, asking the latter to abolish Edcadassa's [South Atlantic Air Cargo Enterprise, Inc.] rates scale and order the demonopolization of the Ezeiza government warehouses, brought up a controversy that, until yesterday, had developed behind the scenes. The disagreement between Ministers Cavallo and Gonzalez could hint at profound discrepancies within the cabinet, discrepancies that are sustained by political and economic disagreements. Since the price index soar began to worry government officials, Economy Ministry officials imagined various alternatives that, without touching the nominal exchange rate, would improve the effective exchange rate [paridad efectiva] for exporters.

One of the possibilities described in the drafts of the second deregulation decree involved reducing the operational costs of imports and exports through Ezeiza. According to Economy Ministry figures, the abovementioned operational costs experienced a 100 percent increase following the last rescheduling of rates decided by Antonio Erman Gonzalez. This change was prompted by the first deregulation decree, which promoted the

mechanism of free customs clearance for imported merchandise, obviating the need for Edcadassa's government warehouses. The decision was never implemented.

The information supplied by Cavallo to the press was described as inaccurate by Erman Gonzalez during an interview. Although the public controversy was not discussed during yesterday's cabinet meeting, it will indeed be discussed at next Thursday's cabinet meeting when Cavallo is in our country. The importance of this issue is marked both by the measure's economic transcendence and by its political weight.

In a memorandum that the U.S. Embassy sent to the government on 3 June [date as published], [U.S. Ambassador] Terence Todman proposed the formation of a bilateral working group to analyze the monopoly in the ground operations service at the Ezeiza Airport. The memorandum's text noted the following:

Objective of the working group:

—To abolish the monopoly; to grant the U.S. airline companies the right to manage their own ground operations services or to contract another company.

—To grant the U.S. airline companies the right to build their own warehouses or contract others.

Nevertheless, the first record on the pressures can be found in the famous letter that the ambassador sent to the then Minister Gonzalez that prompted "Swiftgate."

The seventh point in that letter, entitled Federal Express Corporation, pointed out that that company "has the goal of making a long-term investment, but finds it impossible to obtain a license for its courier service due to a moratorium. Monopolistic regulations at the airports, in turn, prevent the introduction of new entrepreneurial procedures."

Through monopoly and current regulations, Edcadassa, a corporation owned 55 percent by the Defense Ministry and 45 percent by Villalonga Furlong [Company], prevented the U.S. corporation's investments and greater penetration into the domestic market.

By the end of last year, Minister Erman Gonzalez traveled to the United States with the goal of securing financing for restructuring the military industrial complex and the Armed Forces. While in the United States, he announced that the Defense Ministry's shares in Edcadassa (55 percent) would be privatized. Nevertheless, Gonzalez did not say anything about the removal of a monopoly that the company has been holding for 20 years as per a contract signed with the Air Force and the former government.

Menem To Mediate Dispute

PY0703192092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1111 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (NA)—President Carlos Menem will settle the public confrontation between Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez regarding the joint enterprise, Edcadassa [South Atlantic Air Cargo Enterprise, Inc.]. With this objective, the president will hold a meeting with both ministers when Cavallo returns from Mexico.

The controversy between the two ministers worsened yesterday when Gonzalez said that the terms of the note sent to him by the economy minister—asking him to end the monopoly of government warehouses, especially at Ezeiza airport—"are absolutely arbitrary."

Gonzalez also criticized the method employed by Cavallo to publicize the issue, stating: "I first read the text in the newspapers, and only much later did I receive the note."

Nevertheless, he said that he has not confronted Cavallo "because, from the political point of view, there can be no disagreement concerning the objectives presented by President Menem."

In remarks to a radio station, Gonzalez said, "The time will come to discuss the situation face to face, each with our own data, and if some decision is to be made, President Menem will make it."

Referring to a passage in the note, where it says that the tariff system implies an increase of up to 170 percent, he said, "Whoever gave this data to Cavallo gave him absolutely arbitrary figures without any technical or real basis."

Regarding importers' objections to the new tariffs, Gonzalez said, "The first report I have on it is through a letter sent to me by the Argentine Chamber of Commerce," the text of which demands increases of between 50 and 100 percent. When asked about his response to Cavallo's request to reduce tariffs to previous levels, Gonzalez said, "What we are going to do is ask the Argentine Chamber of Commerce whether it is more convenient for them to return to the previous tariff system or to continue with the current one, and what I intend is that they answer with arguments."

Gonzalez added, "The basis of calculation and the demonstrative chart" released by Minister Cavallo "are absolutely arbitrary, with no foundation whatsoever, and they are not comparable; and besides, the tariff complies with the importers' requirements."

The defense minister added that, in view of Cavallo's note, "I have decided to request again a new study on the effects of the tariff and to respond to the minister on each of these points—but through a documented study."

'Substantial Change' in Nuclear Policy Discussed

PY0803030892 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Mar 92 p 7

[Excerpt] Although the issue was not on the agenda, the cabinet yesterday analyzed alternatives for a substantial change in the cabinet's nuclear policy to announce to the

international community and, among other proposals, formalizing a declaration on the use of atomic energy with peaceful goals.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella brought up the issue after he talked about sending troops to former Yugoslavia to join the UN peacekeeping forces. According to some participants, Di Tella was very categorical about the need to end any suspicion about Argentine nuclear development. He even took a step further, saying that it did not make any sense to continue current research paths. Di Tella's goal involves ratification of the Tlatelolco Treaty on nuclear nonproliferation. Therefore, he said, it is not desirable to hold back gestures in this regard. [passage omitted]

Government 'Regressed' in Civil, Political Rights

PY0803222692 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 8 Mar 92 p 4

[Text] (DYN)—During the last two years the government of Argentina "has not progressed, but rather regressed" with regard to civil and political rights, charged the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights in an analysis it performed at the request of the Interior Ministry.

"Formally, the democratic system exists," wrote Socialist Deputy Alfredo Bravo and Professor Graciela Fernandez Meijide in the seven-page report, "but it is necessary to emphasize the diminishing of the systems of control that guarantee it, disturbing the equilibrium of the (republican) powers and concentrating power in the national executive."

Bravo and Fernandez Meijide, the assembly's president and secretary, respectively, carried out the survey after the Interior Ministry's human rights director, Alicia Pierini, asked the organization to evaluate the observance during 1990 and 1991 here of guarantees established by the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights.

Among those castigated by the pair was President Carlos Menem "and subordinates" for repeatedly attacking journalists and publications reporting on relatives of the president or members of his administration implicated in corruption investigations.

Bolivia

President Addresses Economic, Political Issues

PY0603202292 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora has said that Bolivia's economic and political situation cannot be compared to that of other nations because Bolivia is undergoing a reorganization so that larger resources can be channeled to the poor. He stressed that this is a historic decision.

[Begin Paz recording] The fact that Bolivia is making an effort to reorganize its economy, the fact that we want a more competitive economy, the fact that we are streamlining our economy is [words indistinct] Bolivia. Because we have managed to reorganize our economy this year's national budget has $110 million earmarked for social development: health, education and basic services. This is going to benefit the poorest people in our country.

Out of $511 million budgeted for public investments, $110 million will be spent directly on health, education, sewage, water supply, and other services.

Had Bolivia not streamlined and reorganized its economy, when do you think we could have put together $110 million to spend it on the very poor, to spend it on social projects? Last year's budget had earmarked $28 million for social development; this year we have quadrupled social investments compared to last year.

I have heard a lot said about the [words indistinct] and other issues concerning this budget, but nobody had anything to say about this historic allocation to social development. This has been possible only because we modernized our economy. Had we failed to do this we would have had no funds to spend on social development.

Thus, the ideas some people have in connection with the Venezuelan affair are not going to work in Bolivia. What I mean is that never before has Bolivia invested so much money for the general welfare. [end recording]

The journalists asked the president to explain the appearance of radical groups in the rural areas and whether they were the consequence of poverty.

[Begin Paz recording] We now have a lot less poverty than we did five years ago. You have, for example, the rural telephone system, which is now available over the entire plateau region. This is a very important development. Therefore, I believe that the poverty argument is not valid. The rebels were arrested in one of the richest areas of the plateau region. Had they been arrested in some of the more depressed parts of the plateau, I would be willing to say that extreme poverty is the cause for their attitude. However, these groups are operating in provinces like Omasuyos, one of the most capitalist-oriented provinces in the country. It would be hard to find another province, even in Santa Cruz Department, where more money changes hands among the poor farmers.

Thus, I would say that there is a lot of ideology at play among these radical groups that are trying to do something in the rural areas. They still believe that guns will get you anything. The one place that guns have been proven to be ineffective is Bolivia, especially in the hands of guerrilla-type groups.

Undoubtedly one can use poverty as an excuse because our country has inherited an entrenched poverty, but I believe that now we are doing a great deal to resolve this. Communications is just one example I mention, because I believe that one must free the spirit of the people; one

must allow the peasants to communicate with other people, their relatives' relatives.

I would like you...and I will speak directly to you since you were the one who asked the question. I would like you to make a study to establish how much money my administration has spent on the development of rural areas, a study of how much money was spent on infrastructure, basic sanitation projects, medical care units, and schools.

I say that poverty can be used as an argument in Bolivia, in Tokyo, in New York, in Berlin, anywhere at all, because there is poverty everywhere. It cannot explain, however, why small isolated groups of people who have some connections in the city and who have higher education are applying the ideologically distorted method of seeking solutions through conflict in our country. [end recording]

Remarks on Corruption, Inflation

PY0703153492 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Another question the reporters posed to President Paz Zamora [during a conversation between the President and journalists] was one which referred to corruption. Paz said that his government has adopted categorical and concrete measures to curb corruption.

[Begin Paz recording] During the two years and seven months of my government, we have not received any complaints of corruption, nor have there been any reports on corruption scandals as we were accustomed to hearing in the past. What is true is that we are trying to fight corruption at all times and at all levels. We have been changing people without engaging in any scandal, and without humiliating anyone. We have been changing people wherever and whenever necessary. I think everything is working well. I have made the necessary changes to keep improving this situation. We have made great progress in setting the structural basis for a solution—and not the final solution to corruption, because corruption exists even in the United States and in the industrialized countries—but the basis to have a better chance to control corruption. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

During the lengthy conversation with reporters, which lasted more than half an hour, the president also referred to inflation; he said that despite problems during the first two months of the year, inflation has reached lower levels as compared to the same period last year.

[Begin Paz recording] This year we are better than last year. Last year we had a 5.6 percent inflation rate in January, that is, above the 40 percent inflation objective set for last year. This year, in two months, January and February, we accrued 4.85 percent, that is, less than what we had the first month of last year. This means that we are improving. But our inflation objectives are tighter this year. We have set an inflation rate target that is tighter than last year. Thus, the 4.85 percent represents 48 percent of our objective, while the 5.6 percent recorded in January last year represented 40 percent of last year's objective.

All this can be explained. Last year's inflation rate was more justifiable because the fuel price increase led to an inflation rate of 5.6 percent in January. This year inflation was caused perhaps by the increase in the price of wheat flour. This has prompted speculation. The flour is used in the preparation of the most widely sold bread [pan de batalla]. This month the inflation rate was 2.24 percent. Of this 2.24 inflation rate in February, 1.51 percent is a result of the price increase for bread. That is, the result of the speculation with the wheat flour price. In other words, that half of the inflation rate this month was caused by the increase in the price of bread. [end recording]

Another point stressed by President Paz Zamora was the fact that inflation is a problem that affects all Bolivians, and that we are all responsible for it. He regretted the fact that some privileged sectors have not understood this situation and have been the cause of inflation. [recorded passage omitted]

Communique Issued Over 'Foreign Arrogance'

PY0603153892 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] The Journalists' Association of Beni Department has declared a state of emergency in light of yet another example of foreign arrogance in Bolivia. The event took place in Guayaramerin on 29 February when U.S. military advisers, probably thinking their arrival should remain top secret [preceding two words in English], did not allow a cameraman from the local Catolica television station to film them and tried to snatch the camera away.

When cameraman Wilson Villaroel, secretary for press freedom of the Guayaramerin Press Association, sought shelter in airport offices, the gringos burst in after him.

The Beni Journalists' Association issued a communique placing the union in a state of emergency and charging that U.S. advisers enjoy diplomatic immunity and have the government's permission to perpetrate outrages. This attitude of obsequiousness toward the Yankee government cannot be tolerated or shared by journalists, who warn the advisers that they had better refrain from bullying fellow journalists.

In a communique signed by the entire executive board, the Beni Journalists' Association expresses solidarity with Guayaramerin colleagues and announces that the state of emergency will remain in effect until government officials start wearing their pants again when dealing with these gentlemen who think that they are in their own backyard, rather than in a nation that they must respect.

Chile

German Envoy Pabsch Demands Honecker's Expulsion

LD0603162192 Hamburg DPA in German 1350 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Santiago (DPA)—On Friday, Wiegand Pabsch, the German ambassador in Santiago, presented the Chilean Foreign Ministry with the Bonn Government's demand that Erich Honecker's stay in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow be terminated. The meeting between the diplomat and Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma lasted 30 minutes. The minister's reaction was said to be "cool". The Chilean Government is annoyed by the premature publication of the German position.

The Federal Republic's firm attitude has evoked clear criticism in Chile. Bonn's actions are seen as incompatible with Chilean sovereignty.

'Strong Complaint' Lodged With FRG

PY0603173692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Chilean Government is unwilling to accept any type of pressure, no matter how powerful the state (?exerting) it is. Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma stated this to German Ambassador in Santiago Wiegand Pabsch, with whom he met in his office this morning.

Minister Silva said, that during the meeting, he also conveyed to the diplomat the government's strong complaint about the way in which Germany has announced its position on the Erich Honecker case. The foreign minister said matters of concern between two governments must not be channeled through the press.

[Begin recording] I told him that, at any rate, the Chilean Government—of course, respectful of the way in which international relations are being conducted—formally protested the fact that the German Government, if it had wanted to convey any official proposal to the Chilean Government, previously disclosed such a proposal to the press. This is not the way that we understand international relations are to be conducted. Therefore, I told him to kindly convey to his government our strong complaint about the way in which it is treating a problem that, in our opinion, does not involve shunning responsibility for the decision that the Chilean Government has to make on this matter, and that we are unwilling to accept pressure on this matter from any government, no matter how powerful it is. [end recording]

Minister Silva added that the ambassador did not present a protest note during the meeting as was announced, but presented a request from his government for Chile to allow Erich Honecker to be tried in Germany.

The foreign minister added that he reiterated to the diplomat that this issue remains a tripartite problem between Chile, Germany, and Russia. [passage omitted]

FRG 'Slightly Annoyed'

PY0603185892 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] For his part, German ambassador in Santiago Wiegand Pabsch has said that relations between his country and Chile continue to be very good despite the fact that his government is slightly annoyed about the protection given to former German leader Erich Honecker. He added that Germany expects President Aylwin's government to turn over the former communist leader.

[Begin Pabsch recording] Relations between Germany and Chile continue to be very good. We have maintained and we want to continue the good understanding and friendship that have always linked us. Of course, there are difficult moments in the life of nations, and I hope that, with the goodwill of all parties, we will be able to overcome these difficult moments. [end recording]

Wiegand Pabsch made it clear that he conveyed to the Chilean foreign minister a verbal presentation on his government's position on the Honecker case. Honecker is wanted by the German courts for his involvement in the killing of about 200 people who tried to cross the Berlin Wall.

Silva 'Unaware' of Russian Demand

PY0603195492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1640 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Santiago, 6 Mar (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said today, Friday, that the Chilean Government is unaware of the existence of an official Russian demand to evict former GDR leader Erich Honecker from the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

The information that the Russian Government had presented such a demand was announced in Bonn by German Foreign Ministry spokesman Hans Schumacher. Silva Cimma made these remarks after confirming that Chile presented an official protest to Germany in response to the pressures that Bonn is exerting on Santiago seeking Honecker's delivery to German authorities.

The Chilean foreign minister pointed out that, for his government, the Russian position is contained in a letter that President Boris Yeltsin sent four days ago to Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. In his letter, Yeltsin "begs" Aylwin to find a "harmonious solution" to Honecker's situation. [passage omitted]

Coalition Leaders Disagree on Case

PY0803032092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] The main leaders of the political parties that make up the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] have stated that their dissenting views on the Honecker case have not weakened the coalition. More friction could occur, however, depending on what happens to Ambassador Clodomiro Almeyda.

Disagreements over the Honecker case among the CPPD member parties surfaced today when Senator Eduardo Frei, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], reiterated that, although it is the Chilean Government's prerogative to find a solution to this problem, one thing is clear:

[Begin Frei recording] No asylum can be granted because there is a state of law in the Federal Republic of Germany, and its government has a legitimate right to bring Honecker to justice on charges of human rights violations. [end recording]

The PDC position clearly contradicts that of the Socialist Party [PS], which continues to endorse the idea of granting political asylum to Honecker and then letting Germany request his extradition. For its part, the Party for Democracy [PPD] believes that the solution to this controversy—involving Germany, Russia, and Chile—rests with Honecker himself.

[Begin PPD President Erich Schnacke recording] We believe Honecker must end his prolonged visit to our embassy in Moscow on his own volition and answer the charges his own nation is leveling against him. [end recording]

However, all CPPD member parties have rejected the pressure that is being exerted by Germany. They also believe it is too early to talk about Ambassador Almeyda's resignation, a possibility the PS is not willing to consider.

[Begin PS Vice President Camilo Escalona recording] We believe that, in light of the significance the PS attaches to this problem, our allies in the coalition will not sponsor Clodomiro Almeyda's departure from his post. [end recording]

Opposition parties today heightened their criticism of the government's performance in the Honecker case. The Independent Democratic Union [UDI] specifically focused on Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma:

[Begin UDI Secretary General Hernan Larrain recording] We demand that Foreign Minister Silva Cimma be removed because he has not measured up to the occasion in handling these incidents and because he has failed to take advantage of the extraordinary opportunities opened to Chile in the area of international relations. We believe Silva Cimma must be removed from his post in order to preserve our country's dignity. [end recording]

The National Renewal Party will state its official position on this case on 9 March.

Senator Says Case 'Poorly Handled'

PY0603201092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] In Chile, the National Renewal Party [PRN] has called for unity to overcome political disagreements, in order to reject Russian and German pressure—in this case, pressure that seeks Honecker's delivery.

Rosa Alcayaga gives us the details from political circles:

[Begin recording] [Alcayaga] The PRN, through Senator Sergio Romero, has said that Chile must not accept pressures from either Germany or Russia in the Honecker case. Thus, Romero supported the position on this issue that Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma took this morning.

Romero said that Chileans must unite, overcoming their political disagreements, because our country's dignity is at stake. Nevertheless, he criticized the Foreign Ministry's work, because it has acted and has had a hesitant and contradictory policy. Romero said that the Honecker case will be remembered as one of the most poorly handled cases in Chilean diplomatic history.

According to the PRN, the case must be resolved as soon as possible. Romero explained that his party's position has not changed, because the PRN asked yesterday that Honecker leave the embassy:

[Romero] Ending the de facto asylum does not involve placing Mr. Honecker on the Chilean Embassy's doorstep in Russia. A de facto asylum must conform today to international legal standards—which means that, applied to Mr. Honecker in this case, both the German Government and the Russian Government, if the latter wants it, should request this person's extradition or delivery through the appropriate Chilean authorities, and the Chilean court officials will resolve the case.

[Alcayaga] In response to repeated questions, Sergio Romero said that Honecker must be taken to Chile for our country's courts to rule on a possible extradition request by the German Government. [end recording]

Businessman Says U.S. 'Seized' Helicopter

PY0703182092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0118 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Text] Santiago, 6 Mar (EFE)—Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen, who sold weapons to Iraq, announced today that he will denounce the United States for seizing a helicopter that he designed and that was earmarked for the International Air and Space Show (FIDAE).

At the Cardoen Industries Pavilion of FIDAE, which will take place between 8 and 15 March, there will be some boards on which some documents will be exhibited to show that the U.S. officials have committed "an illegal act."

In an interview published today by the afternoon newspaper LA SEGUNDA, Carlos Cardoen explains that he is the victim in "a witch hunt against the friends of Iraq, in which the easier victims are the small companies and not the large consortiums the United States has at home."

Cardoen manufactured a prototype of a helicopter named "Cardoen 206L-III" with the U.S. Bell company

license, which was sent to the United States to obtain a certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) so the helicopter could be sold in the United States and other countries. But the U.S. Customs Service seized it, and it is now "kept illegally in a hangar by U.S. Customs in Dallas, Texas, Cardoen reported.

The Chilean businessman said that the United States does not like any competition and "even tries to smother any Latin American defense industry." Cardoen explained that "the United States has managed to undermine the Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] and the military projects of Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] in Brazil, and they have annuled the production of the Condor missile in Argentina. It uses all types of pretexts to eliminate competitors that have better chances in Third World countries."

He added that, with the seizure of the helicopter, he lost $5 million and that he has submitted charges to the U.S. courts, where "we have only obtained positive statements by the judge so far."

Cardoen added that the sale of weapons to Iraq ended when the conflict with Iran ended and that the advice given to that country to build industrial plants ended when the Persian Gulf war began, and that Saddam Husayn's regime held seven Chilean technicians from one of his companies.

Costa Rica's Calderon Urges Pressure on Cuba

PY0603192292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0150 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Santiago, 5 Mar (EFE)—During his official visit to Chile, Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon Fournier said today that the time has come for Latin America to press Cuba so that it respects human rights, as was just done at the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

During an interview broadcast this evening on Catholic University Television Channel 13, Calderon Fournier noted: "Today, for the first time in our history, we have a totally democratized Latin America, with the exception of Cuba and Haiti, a country where, thank God, a solution can be glimpsed."

Calderon Fournier added: "I feel the time has come for all of Latin America to press, as we have just done in Geneva, by condemning Cuba for violating human rights."

On 3 March, the UN Human Rights Commission, made up of 53 countries, voted on a censure resolution against the Cuban Government; 23 countries, including Costa Rica, voted for the resolution, eight countries voted against it, and 21 countries abstained.

The Costa Rican president said: "We should be constantly pressing and talking with the various Cuban opposition sectors so they can reach an agreement—basically, to make an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the conflict going on in Cuba."

Asked if he believed that a democratic power transition, as occurred in Chile, was possible in Cuba, Calderon Fournier noted: "I indeed see a change. Undoubtedly, a change will take place in Cuba. Changes have taken place throughout the world. Could we imagine five years ago that the Berlin Wall would fall peacefully? This was inconceivable."

Continuing, Calderon asked: "Could we have imagined what is happening in the former Soviet Union? After seeing all this, I feel, without a trace of doubt, that democracy will be achieved in Cuba."

The Costa Rican president stressed: "We democrats were able to transform democracy into an epidemic. The epidemic will arrive, sooner or later, on that island."

Asked about the opinion of former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, that armies represent a threat to the region, Calderon Fournier did not support the idea. In this regard, Calderon Fournier stressed: "Drug trafficking and underdevelopment represent a greater threat to Latin America. Each country is sovereign and free to consider whether it does or does not require armed forces. In Costa Rica, we do not need them, and we have made a decision in this regard. Concerning each nation, however, I feel we must not meddle in domestic affairs that must be resolved by the citizens of each nation."

Tomorrow the Costa Rican president will sign various agreements with his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin, and will hold a news conference at the Chilean Foreign Ministry.

Colombia

Reportage on 8 Mar Local, Assembly Elections

Gaviria Urges Participation

PA0803170192 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Impromptu news conference by President Cesar Gaviria at Plaza Bolivar in Bogota—live]

[Text] [Gaviria] [Words indistinct] democracy and not allow others to choose your local authorities. These elections are important for our democracy. They will strengthen local democracy. They allow all Colombians who seek peace and coexistence to say no to violence. That is why I believe each and every Colombian must vote in order to fulfill his obligations to the fatherland and to seek prosperity for Colombia; he must do this for his own sake and that of his children.

[Reporter] We notice you got up earlier than usual on 8 March.

[Gaviria] Yes. I think this is the way it should be. I have heard many will abstain from voting in these elections. Therefore, I believe that, as president, I should set an

example for all of us and demonstrate that it is essential to vote and to do it very early so that bad weather will not stop them later.

[Reporter] How about the public order situation, Mr. President?

[Gaviria] Public order is normal, in spite of incidents that took place on 7 March, such as the attack on the telecommunications tower and an ambush in which an electoral registrar official was killed. Everything is normal.

[Reporter] Mr. President: What can you tell the Colombians now, inasmuch as the peace dialogues begin 9 March in Mexico?

[Gaviria] There will be an official pronouncement about the peace talks in Mexico on 9 March [words indistinct].

Pardo Reports Guerrilla Actions

PA0803034292 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Maria del Carmen Tobar, the municipal registrar in Caparrapi Municipality, Cundinamarca Department, was murdered in a guerrilla ambush during the afternoon of 7 March. Despite this, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda has told the "TV Hoy" newscast that the government guarantees that there will be free, orderly elections and that the process will not be suspended anywhere in the country.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Let us go by sectors, Mr. Minister. What is the situation in the central part of the country?

[Pardo] Just a short while ago, an ambush took place against a police patrol that was escorting the municipal registrar from Caparrapi to San Pedro Municipality. Unfortunately, the registrar was killed. This was in Cundinamarca.

[Reporter] Were any policemen killed?

[Pardo] No. There were no other personnel affected.

[Reporter] What is the public order situation in the southwestern part of Colombia?

[Pardo] There were two incidents on 7 March. There was an attack against the Narino oil pipeline and an attack by guerrillas against a Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise [Telecom] relay station. Telecom has informed us that long distance telephone service will be reestablished at about 2000 throughout the southwestern region of the country.

[Reporter] In Huila Department?

[Pardo] There was a guerrilla harassment incident against a Tenerife Battalion unit. A noncommissioned officer was killed in the fighting, unfortunately.

[Reporter] What is the situation in the eastern part of Colombia?

[Pardo] No incidents have been reported along the coast, in the Santander Departments or in Antioquia. [end recording]

Election 'Peaceful,' 'Scant' Turnout

PA0903013292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2137 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Mar (EFE)—On 8 March, the people of Colombia elected 1,023 mayors and 504 Department Assembly deputies in elections characterized by a peaceful environment and scant voter participation.

The 53,000 voting tables installed throughout Colombian territory saw little activity during the 8 hours and 30 minutes of the voting period. The polls closed at 1600.

One of the first people who exercised his right to vote in the capital was Colombian President Cesar Gaviria. He appealed to his fellow countrymen to back democracy by voting because, in his opinion, those who abstain play into the hands of mediocre people.

There have been very few incidents involving public disorder. Military and police commanders from almost all the regions have reported a "completely normal" situation. In Santa Fe de Bogota, however, the relative calm was interrupted by the explosion of a bomb that killed one person and injured two more in the downtown area. The bomb exploded when a police patrol unit was about to search a man whose behavior had made the authorities' suspicious. At that moment, the bomb exploded, killing the suspect and injuring the policeman who was going to search him. A passerby was also injured.

There have been reports about election-related crimes, such as vote-buying and sabotage activities, being committed in some remote regions, but according to Government Minister Humberto De La Calle, this "did not disrupt the election process taking place today throughout Colombia."

In the Damaquiel Police Posts, San Juan de Uraba Municipality, in northern Antioquia Department, the elections could not take place because a group of demonstrators invaded the local polling site and kept the citizens from voting. This is the only site where such a situation was reported.

In San Vicente, Jamundi Municipality (Valle del Cauca), where there was no Army protection, as was the case in the Damaquiel Police Post, rebels from the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board set fire to the only ballot box there. Twenty citizens had deposited their votes.

Minister De La Calle rejected the guerrilla activities aimed at obstructing the elections and spoke about an attack carried out on 7 March in the town of Caparrapi, Cundinamarca Department, where the rebels attacked a police patrol unit, killing Maria del Carmen Tovar, a delegate of the National Civil Registry Office. The

minister said: "This is a typical attack against the civilian population. The inconsistency of the guerrillas' claim that they defend the people when they actually keep the people from freely expressing themselves at the polls is evident."

Approximately 16 million Colombians over 18 were entitled to vote in these elections. This represents 50 percent of the population, but the first reports from the electoral authorities indicate that results will show that more than 70 percent of the people did not vote. It has been noted that there is little enthusiasm. A total of 91,153 candidates ran for posts in these elections.

Luis Camilo Osorio, head of the National Civil Registry Office—the highest electoral authority—has questioned the suitability of lengthened candidate lists and assured that "we could have had 50,000 less candidates" if registration rules had been more strict and precise.

Between March 1990 and October 1991, the Colombians have voted on four occasions to elect congressmen, mayors, members of the National Constituent Assembly, governors, and new members of the Congress, which had been dissolved by the Constituent Assembly members.

The most important parties with candidates in these elections are: the Liberal Party, which is President Gaviria's party; the Social Conservative Party; the Democratic New Force, which is a conservative group; the National Salvation Movement, also conservative; the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance; and the Patriotic Union.

The most important post being disputed today is the office of the mayor of Santa Fe de Bogota, which is viewed as the second most important office, second only to the Presidency. This office is being sought by 13 candidates. According to surveys, the candidate with the best chances is Liberal Party member Jaime Castro, a former minister and former Constituent Assembly member. He is followed by Juan Diego Jaramillio, a conservative; and Gerardo Ardila, a former M-19 guerrilla leader.

Guerrilla Leaders View Upcoming Peace Talks

PA0803233492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Report by Alvaro Freddy Acevedo]

[Text] In Tlaxcala, Mexico, spokesmen for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, who will participate in the fourth round of peace talks announced that FARC is attempting to obtain the release of former Minister Argelino Duran. However, there is pessimism concerning the new round of talks.

The cease-fire is no longer a condition for advance of the peace talks. Both the government and guerrillas feel this decision is an important factor to prevent the stagnation of the talks, which occurred in Caracas.

Here is FARC negotiator Alfonso Cano:

[Begin Cano recording] With the modification of the scheme that conditioned everything to the cease-fire, it is possible to advance, which is what all Colombians want. [end recording]

The guerrillas believe the economic plan implemented by President Cesar Gaviria's government is one of the main causes of the current social conflict the country is facing. This will be one of the main points in the new agenda to be discussed. During the first official session, the guerrillas will present a document demanding a revision of the free economy process.

Here is FARC negotiator Pablo Catatumbo:

[Begin Catatumbo recording] The government is legitimizing what we have been saying for many years: The only way to oppose the government is through armed struggle. [end recording]

Another point to be brought up by the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board will be the subject of missing persons and human rights. The guerrillas will demand a clarification of the whereabouts of former negotiator Daniel Garcia.

Here is FARC negotiator Ivan Marquez:

[Begin Marquez recording] This would be a negative precedent for the negotiations we are conducting—and Daniel Garcia is part of those efforts—so that Colombians can find a path leading to a political solution of our problems. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the government will insist on its proposal to expand the negotiations so other groups—such as members of labor organizations, workers, and businessmen—can participate. The idea is to make the peace talks a forum to debate the country's future.

For now, another day is almost over. Tomorrow will bring a new day with the greatest hope Colombians have: peace.

'Divisions' Within Guerrilla Groups Reported

PA0603182892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Dissidents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, told the "24 Hours" newscast on 5 March that there are divisions within that guerrilla organization.

Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias Tirofijo, does not favor the idea of holding talks with the government, while Alfonso Cano, another leader, believes that this could be the solution.

Here is a report by Miriam Ortiz from La Uribe, Meta:

[Ortiz] The myth of Casaverde disappeared more than a year ago when the Army recovered territories occupied

by FARC. However, clashes in that area still continue. So far this year, the Mobile Brigade has been involved in approximately 28 clashes with the guerrillas who, according to the Army, are trying to reorganize themselves again in that region. Despite the talks between the government and the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board—of which FARC is a member—Commander Tirofijo and Alfonso Cano have different opinions.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified guerrilla] Manuel really believes that by continuing the armed struggle, he will someday achieve something, while Alfonso believes that a solution can be found through dialogue.

[Second unidentified guerrilla] Those differences are evident between various guerrilla organizations, not just between Cano and Tirofijo, but also among the various guerrilla groups. [end recording]

The Army believes that FARC has serious internal problems. According to information obtained through documents confiscated from the guerrillas, more than 100 rebels have been executed, and many others have deserted.

Venezuela

Justice, Interior Affairs Ministers Resign

PA0603194092 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1703 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez is urgently preparing the second reorganization of the government in less than two weeks, as a result of the resignation of the interior affairs and justice ministers.

Justice Minister Arminda Quintana has sent a letter to the president stating that she is "irrevocably" leaving her post to protest the fact that no attention has been paid to her proposals to reform the judicial branch.

Quintana said Perez met with representatives of the judicial system without taking her into account, something that indicates "the little importance given to the Justice Ministry" that, in her opinion, should be in charge of coordinating the reform of the judicial branch.

The minister added that some of the proposals she made when she took office on 26 February have not been accepted. Her proposals included the removal of Deputy Justice Minister Alberto Morales, accused by the Attorney General's Office of being a member of one of the pressure groups that allegedly act in the judicial branch to cover up corruption.

The deputy justice minister is the son of David Morales, who is a senator of the ruling Democratic Action (AD) party and is accused of being the founder of these groups. David Morales has also been criticized by all political sectors for having called on 4 February for the death penalty for the soldiers who tried to overthrow the government.

The resignation of Interior Affairs Minister Carmelo Lauria was the other resignation affecting the government a few hours after Perez announced on 5 March important measures for political, economic, and social changes. Like the justice minister, Lauria only lasted one week as minister.

"My work in the ministry was that of 'pinch hitter'," Lauria told DIARIO DE CARACAS when he confirmed his resignation.

The total reorganization of the cabinet was requested by the Presidential Advisory Council, which expressed the majority opinion of all Venezuelan sectors. The council recommended to the president that he form a national unity government as a guarantee for implementing the measures announced by Perez. These measures include actions against administrative corruption and social actions to benefit the most needy sectors.

The candidates to form part of the new government include AD leader Luis Pinerua Ordaz for interior minister or for prime minister, if this position is created by Congress.

Pinerua, a former presidential candidate considered to be the AD's "moral bulwark," last week rejected the Interior Ministry post because the conditions he set for accepting the post were not met. He had said he wanted to hold the position with full autonomy and with the powers of prime minister.

The other possible candidates for ministers are Pedro Pablo Aguilar, president of the Christian Democratic Organization of America, who might fill the post of agriculture minister; independent economist Domingo Maza Zavala for the Planning Ministry; attorney Jose Melich Orsini for the Justice Ministry; and industrialist Julio Sosa Rodriguez for the Finance Ministry.

The presidency of the Central Bank, the position that creates the greatest controversy, might be held by banker Gustavo Marturet. He would replace economist Miguel Rodriguez, who has been criticized by AD because it considers him responsible for the economic adjustment program.

Supreme Court President Requests Retirement

PA0703000692 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
2223 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (DPA)—On 6 March, Pedro Alid Zoppi, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, presented his resignation after Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez announced the replacement of five justices and the dismissal of judges implicated in cases of corruption.

Alid Zoppi requested his immediate retirement in a letter addressed to the justices of the Supreme Court and

subsequently delivered to the president at the Presidential Palace in Miraflores. If this retirement is approved, it would mean his definite separation from the Venezuelan Supreme Court of Justice.

"On 5 March, the president of the Republic announced the replacement of five members of the court, whose term has already expired. I am included among those; therefore, I am requesting the approval of my retirement," Zoppi said.

Perez' announcement on the restructuring of the controversial judicial system sparked confusion among the justices and also sparked the resignation of Justice Minister Arminda Quintana, who said she was not consulted on the reforms.

After hearing Perez' decision, the justices analyzed the possibility of not accepting the incorporation of new members to the court. This action would trigger a direct confrontation between the executive and judicial branches.

Alid Zoppi, 66, has served on the Supreme Court of Justice for eight years and as a public servant for 40 years.

Senator Urges Creation of Prime Minister Post

PA0803233292 Madrid EFE in Spanish
2251 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 8 Mar (EFE)—Senator Pedro Paris, president of the Venezuelan Congress, has proposed the "immediate" creation of the post of prime minister as part of the package of political, economic, and social rectification measures to be implemented by the government to resolve the serious crisis the country is experiencing.

Senator Paris said that, at this stage, the prime minister should be appointed by the president of the republic with the approval of the Congress. The senator said the prime minister should have specific powers that allow him to cooperate effectively in improving the branches of government, instead of being "subject to the whims of the head of state."

President Carlos Andres Perez had offered to create the post of prime minister as one of his campaign promises. There has been a nationwide call for this action in the wake of the 4 February abortive coup.

Venezuela has a presidential regime. Creation of the post of prime minister would require amendment of the Constitution so as to allow for a parliamentary system in the style of the European democracies.

Coupists' Attorneys Say Fair Trial 'Impossible'

PA0603222292 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
1958 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 6 Mar (DPA)—On 6 March, the attorneys for the leaders of the failed military coup against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez reported that the authorities could stage a fake escape attempt in order to kill them. They also announced that they are taking the case to the international courts.

"It is impossible, within the framework of the current Venezuelan legal system, to have a just trial," Javier Elichguerra, one of the defense lawyers of the rebel military, said.

The soldiers who participated in the coup on 4 February, led by Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, remain under arrest and are being tried for military rebellion in the San Carlos garrison. The garrison is in the center of Caracas. The lawyers have indicated that Perez and the Supreme Court of Justice, however, have already spoken out against the soldiers, calling them common criminals.

"We are not talking about common criminals, but political prisoners, even though the trial is a military trial, Elicheguerra said. Once the trial is over in Venezuela, he insisted that the case would be taken to an unspecified international court.

The attorneys explained that the defense of the insurgents is based on Article 250 of the Constitution, which establishes the absolute inviolability of the Constitution, and that those responsible for an act of force should be tried according to the laws issued by the same.

In addition, the attorneys showed their concern over an attempt to murder the accused by staging a fake escape. The accused are in the San Carlos Garrison. Approximately 133 officers and sergeant majors involved in the attempted coup, which left at least 17 soldiers dead, are being held at the military stronghold of Fort Tiuna.